

A Jeweled Crown



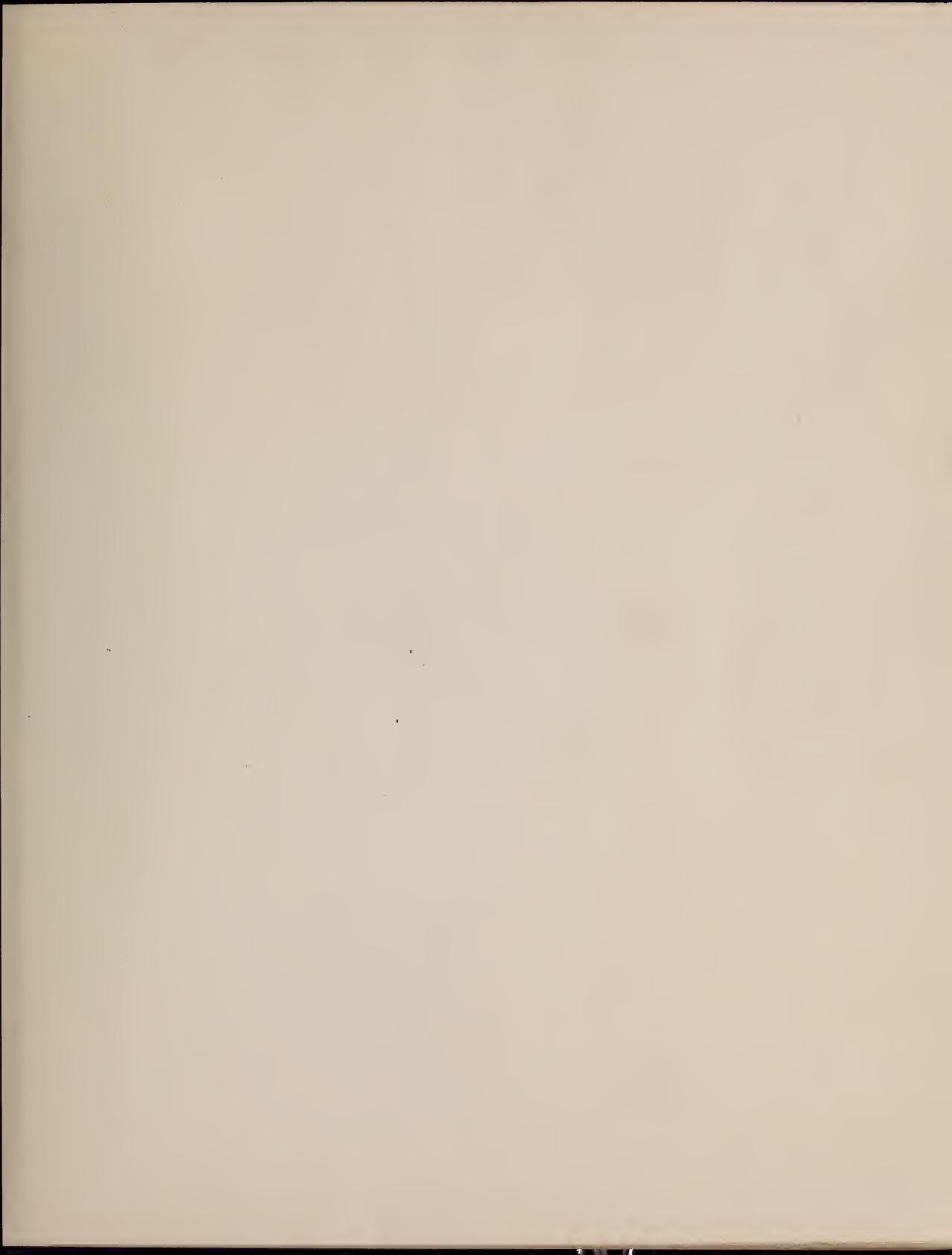


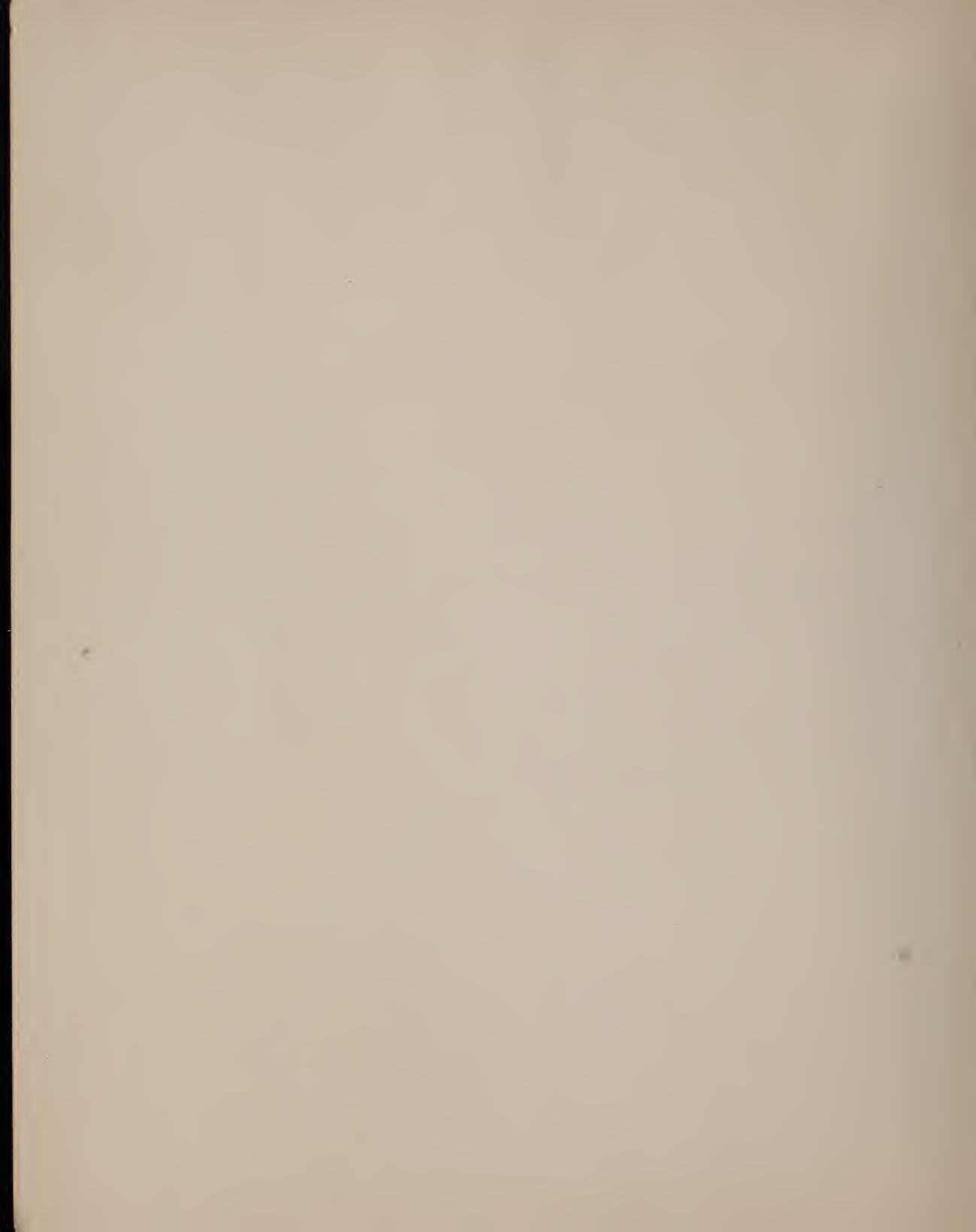
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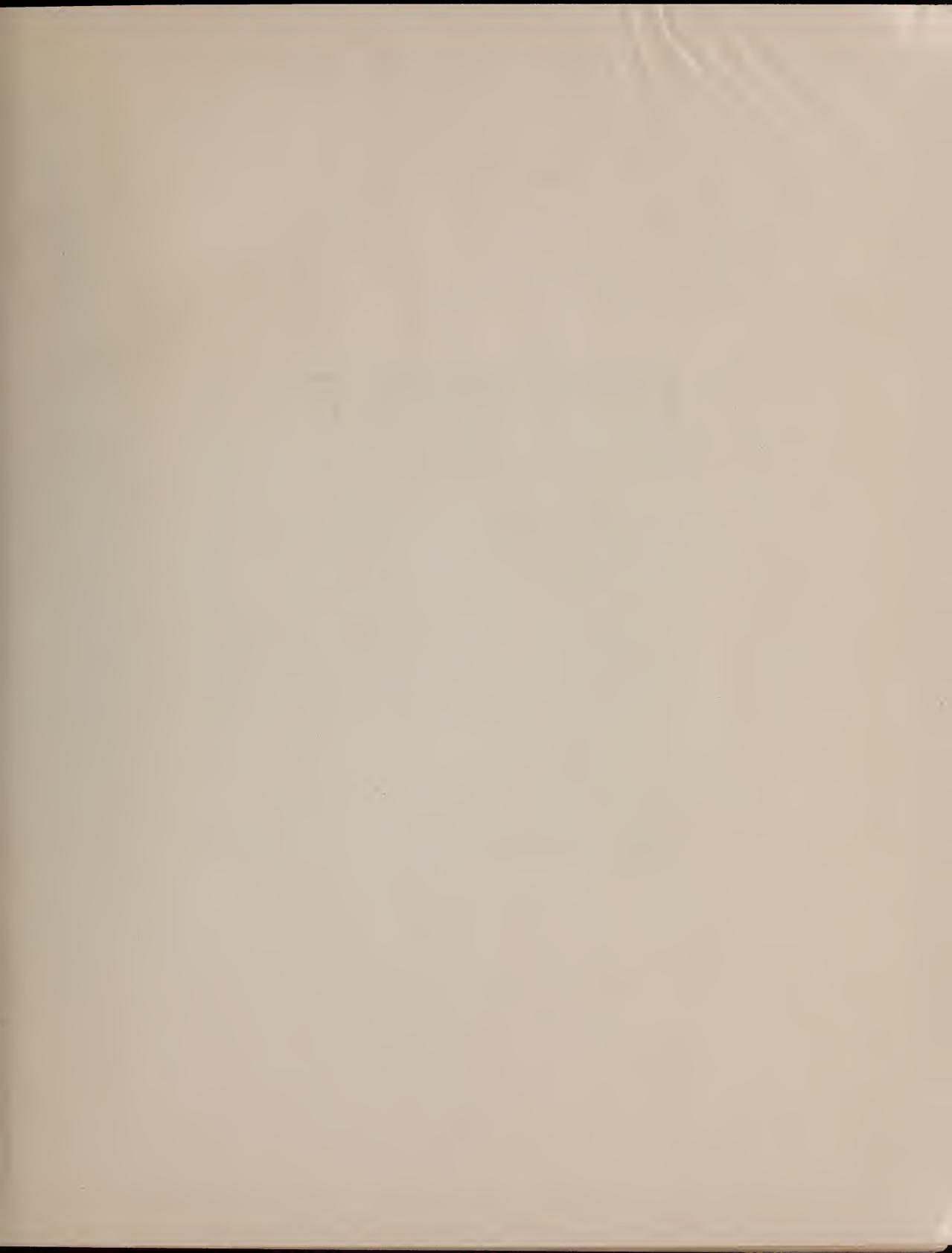
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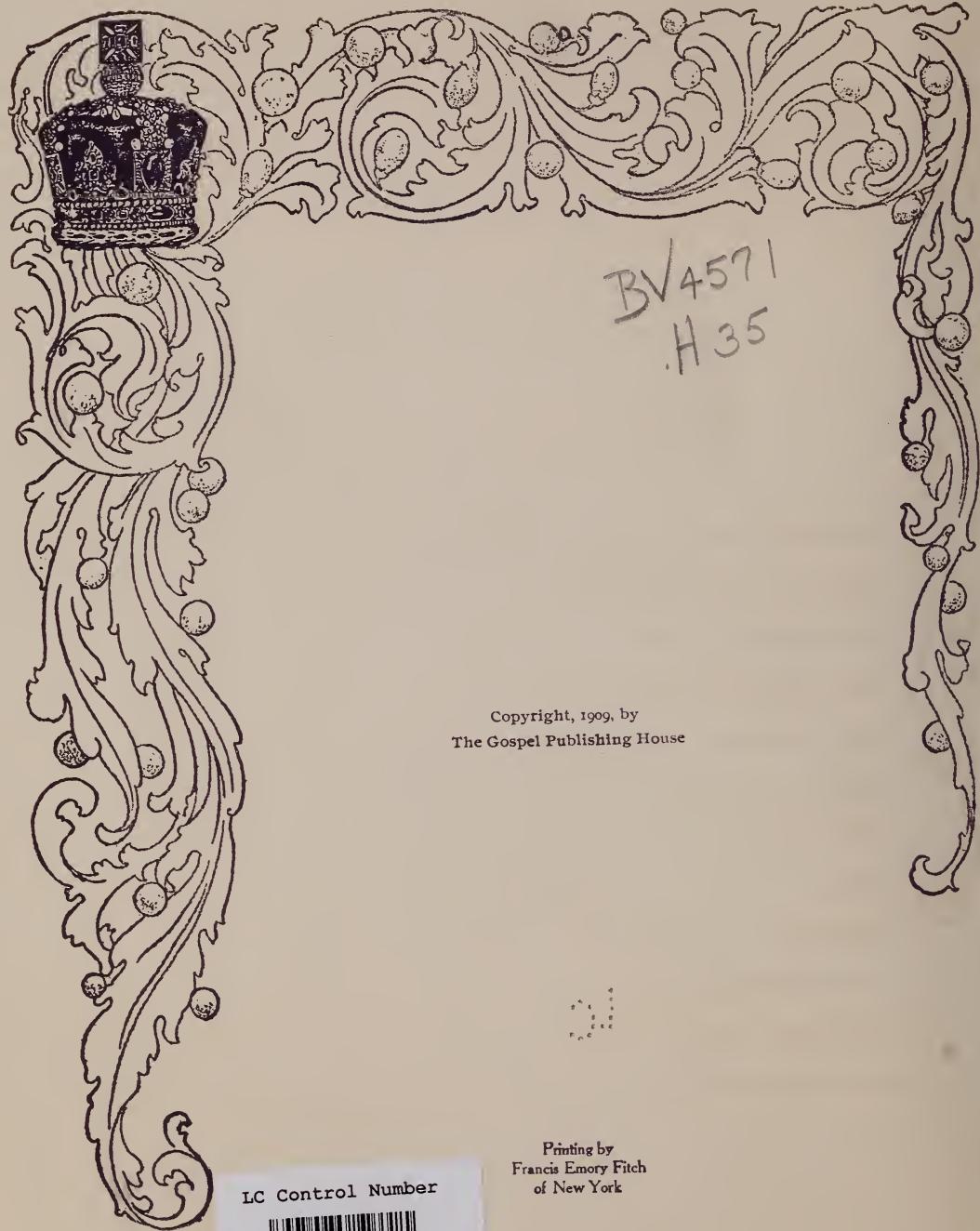


A Jeweled Crown

BY

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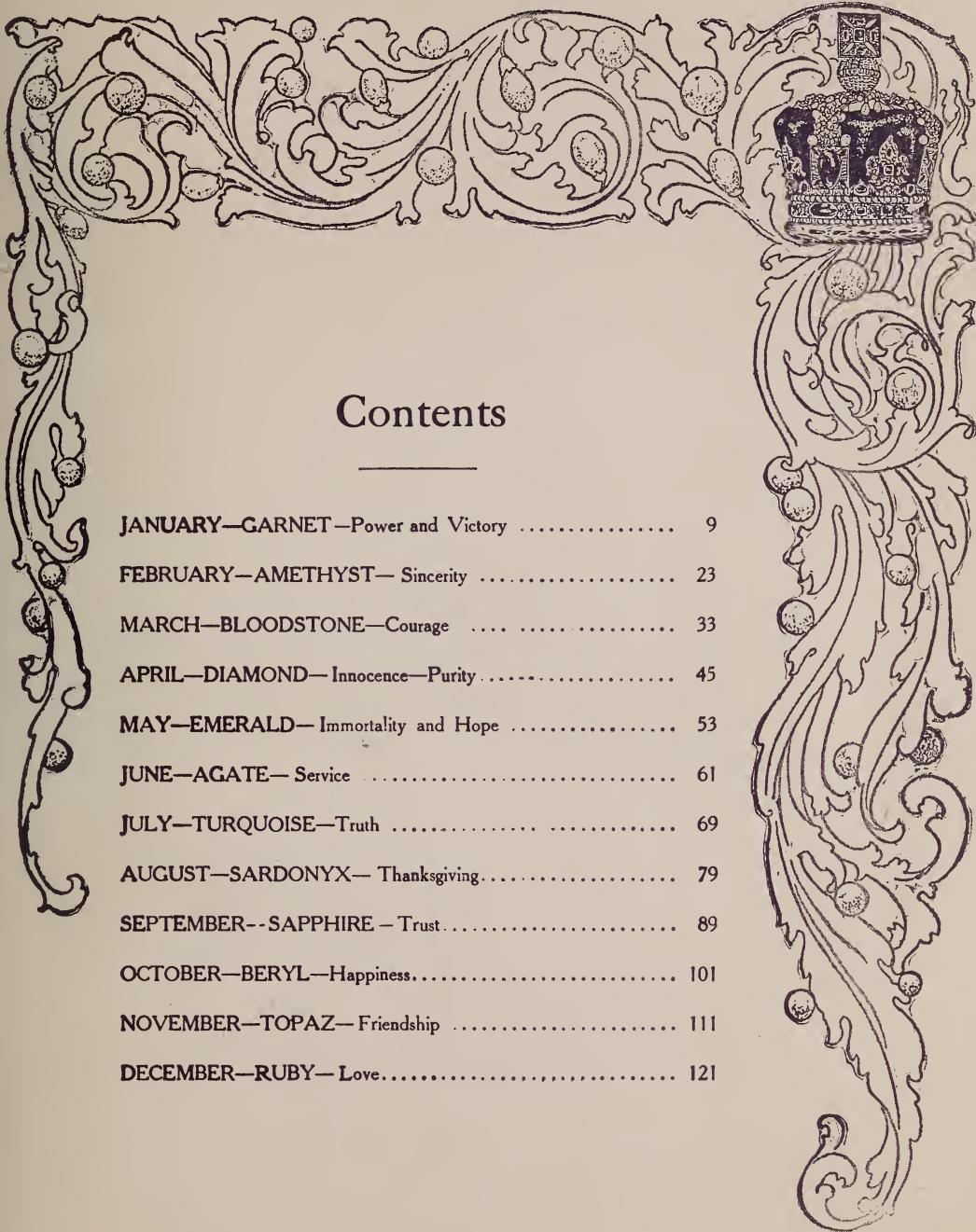
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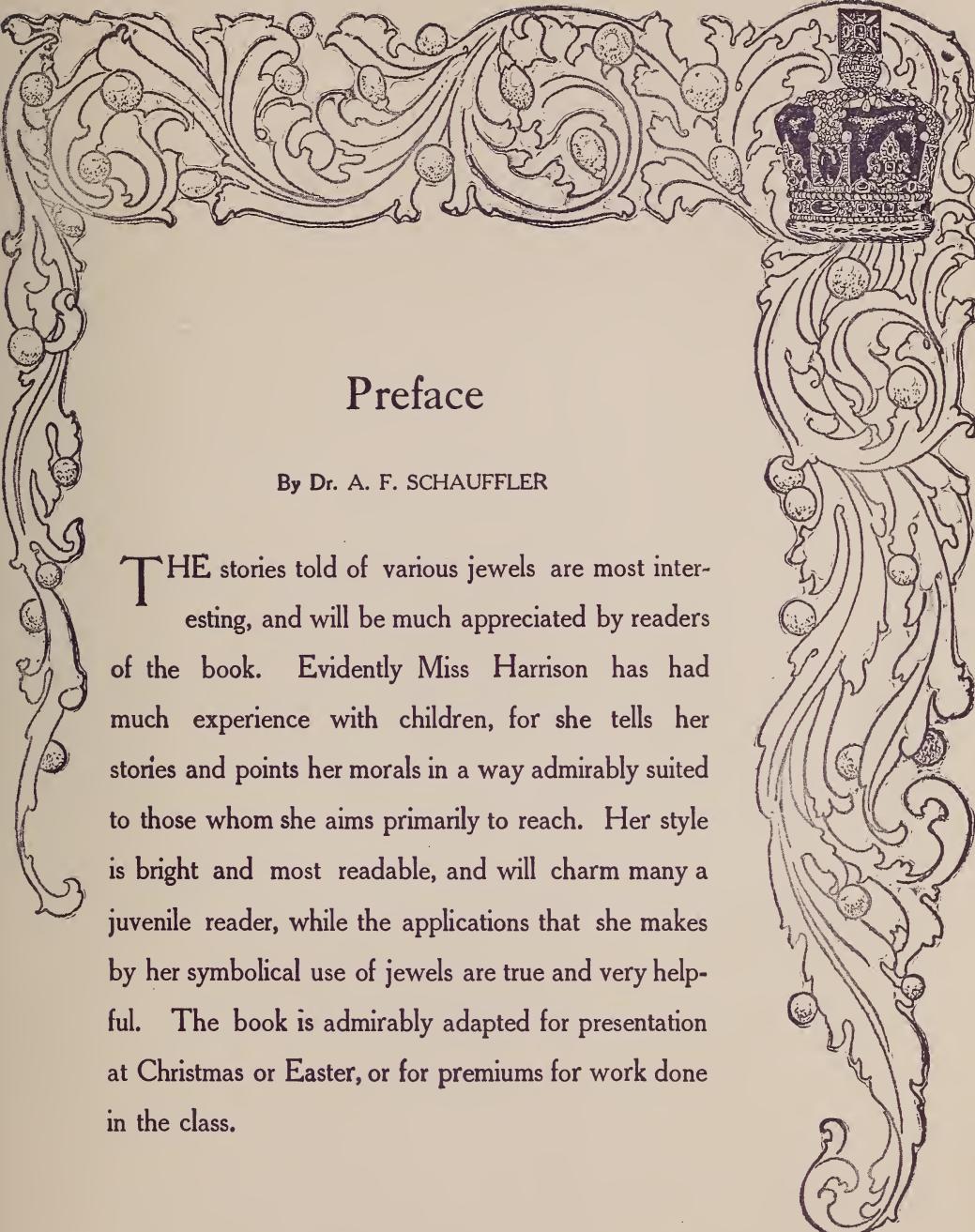
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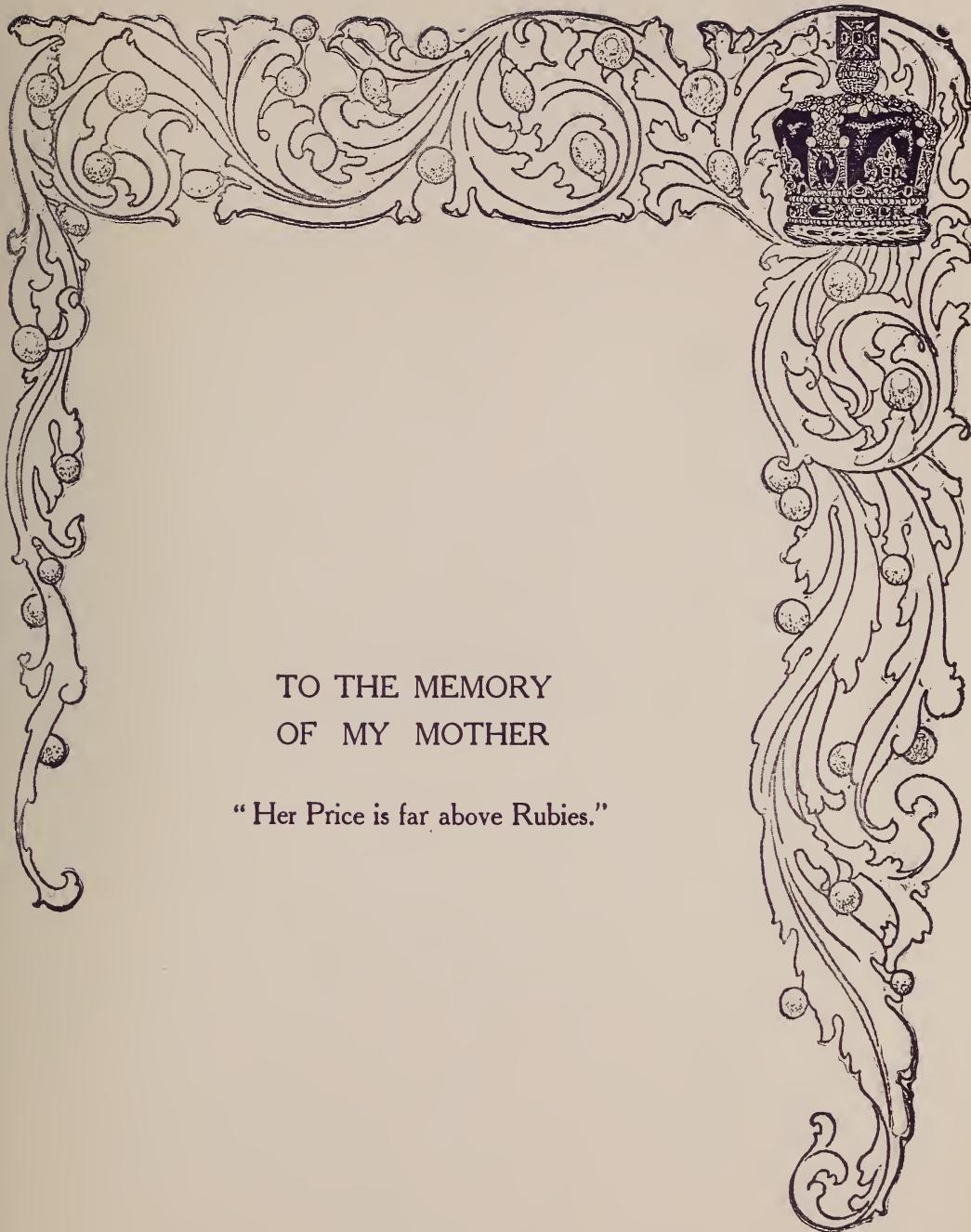
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Preface

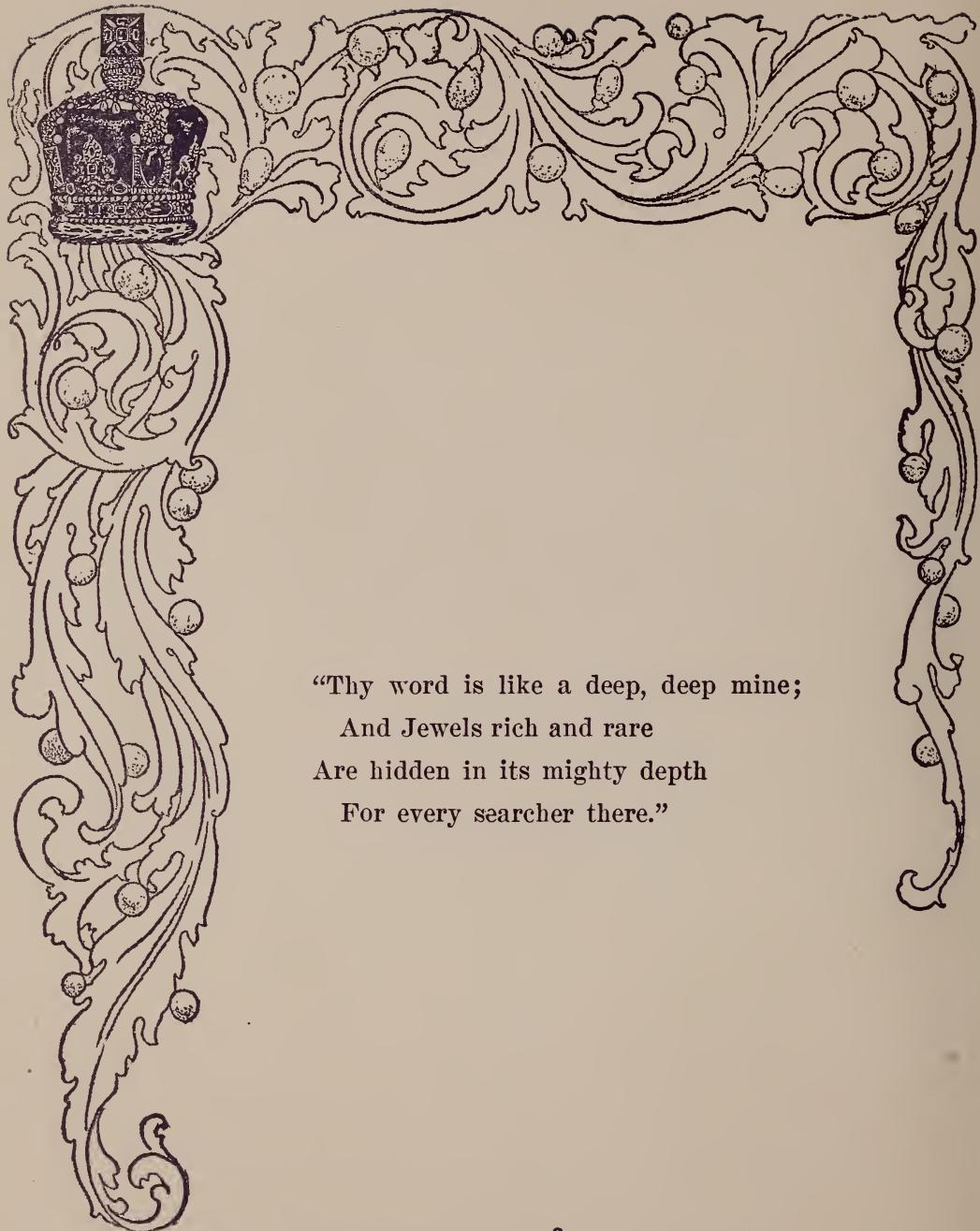
By Dr. A. F. SCHAUFFLER

THE stories told of various jewels are most interesting, and will be much appreciated by readers of the book. Evidently Miss Harrison has had much experience with children, for she tells her stories and points her morals in a way admirably suited to those whom she aims primarily to reach. Her style is bright and most readable, and will charm many a juvenile reader, while the applications that she makes by her symbolical use of jewels are true and very helpful. The book is admirably adapted for presentation at Christmas or Easter, or for premiums for work done in the class.

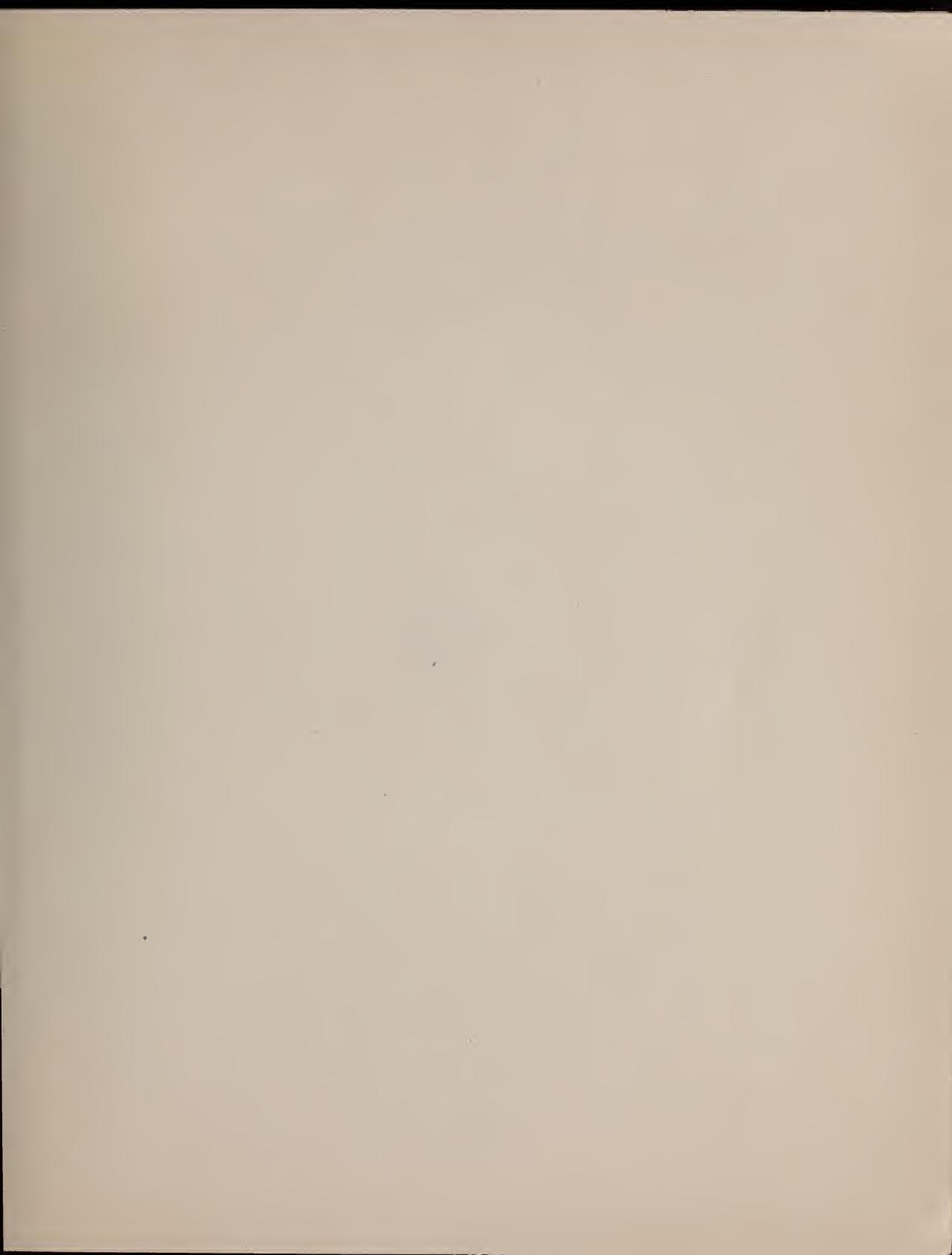


TO THE MEMORY
OF MY MOTHER

“Her Price is far above Rubies.”



“Thy word is like a deep, deep mine;
And Jewels rich and rare
Are hidden in its mighty depth
For every searcher there.”







A Jeweled Crown

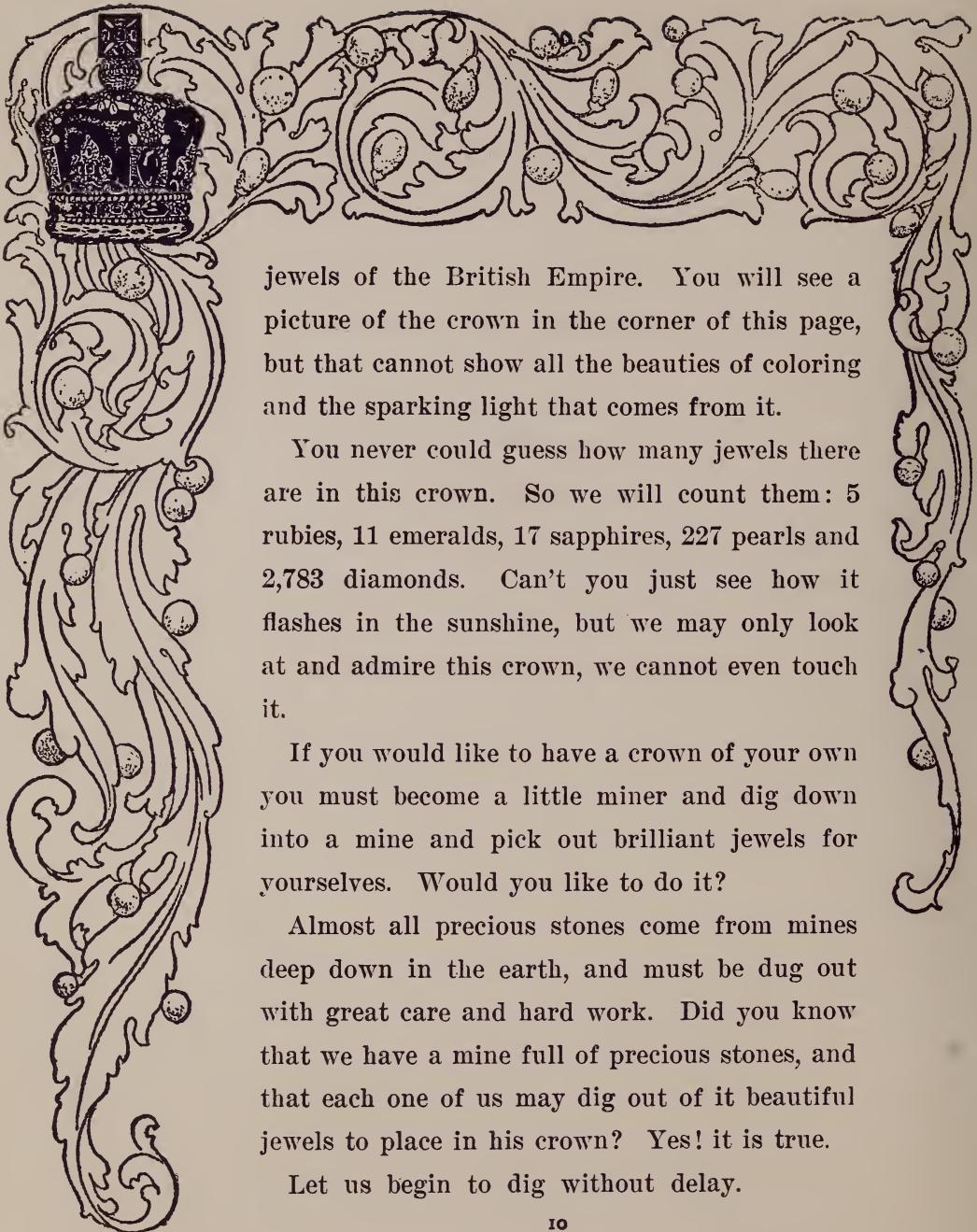
JANUARY

THE GARNET.

WHERE in the world can we hope to find for ourselves a crown sparkling with jewels? Boys and girls love to travel, so you are all invited to go with me, not on a real journey, but a "make believe" one, on board one of those huge ocean greyhounds, to be carried on its back across the deep blue ocean, and one fine morning wake up to find ourselves in London town.

Why do we go there?

To visit one of the most beautiful crowns in the world. Through the gloomy gates of the famous Tower of London, past the stately "Beefeaters," in their quaint dress, into a small round tower. Oh, what a dazzling sight is before us! There, in a glass case, are the famous crown



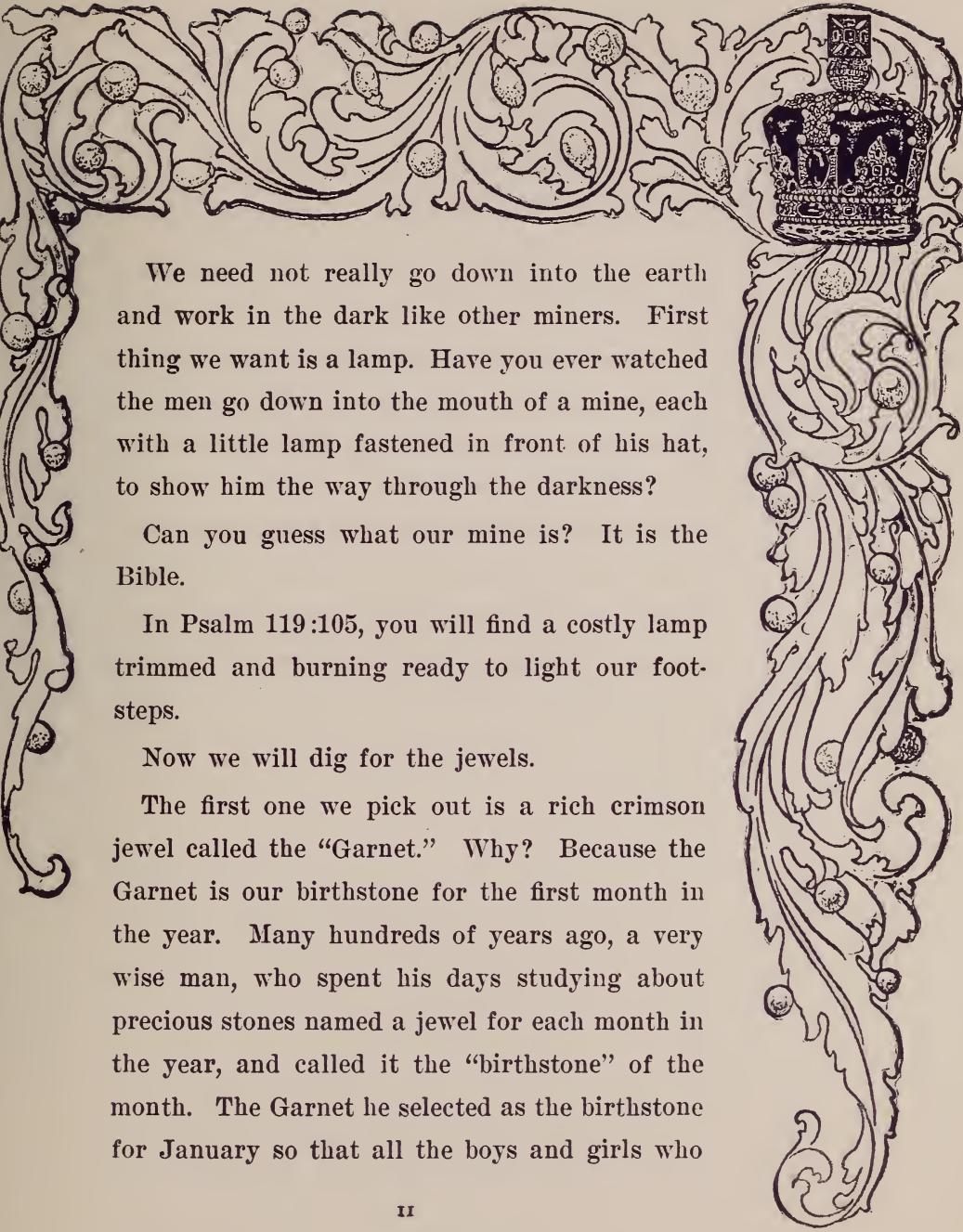
jewels of the British Empire. You will see a picture of the crown in the corner of this page, but that cannot show all the beauties of coloring and the sparkling light that comes from it.

You never could guess how many jewels there are in this crown. So we will count them: 5 rubies, 11 emeralds, 17 sapphires, 227 pearls and 2,783 diamonds. Can't you just see how it flashes in the sunshine, but we may only look at and admire this crown, we cannot even touch it.

If you would like to have a crown of your own you must become a little miner and dig down into a mine and pick out brilliant jewels for yourselves. Would you like to do it?

Almost all precious stones come from mines deep down in the earth, and must be dug out with great care and hard work. Did you know that we have a mine full of precious stones, and that each one of us may dig out of it beautiful jewels to place in his crown? Yes! it is true.

Let us begin to dig without delay.



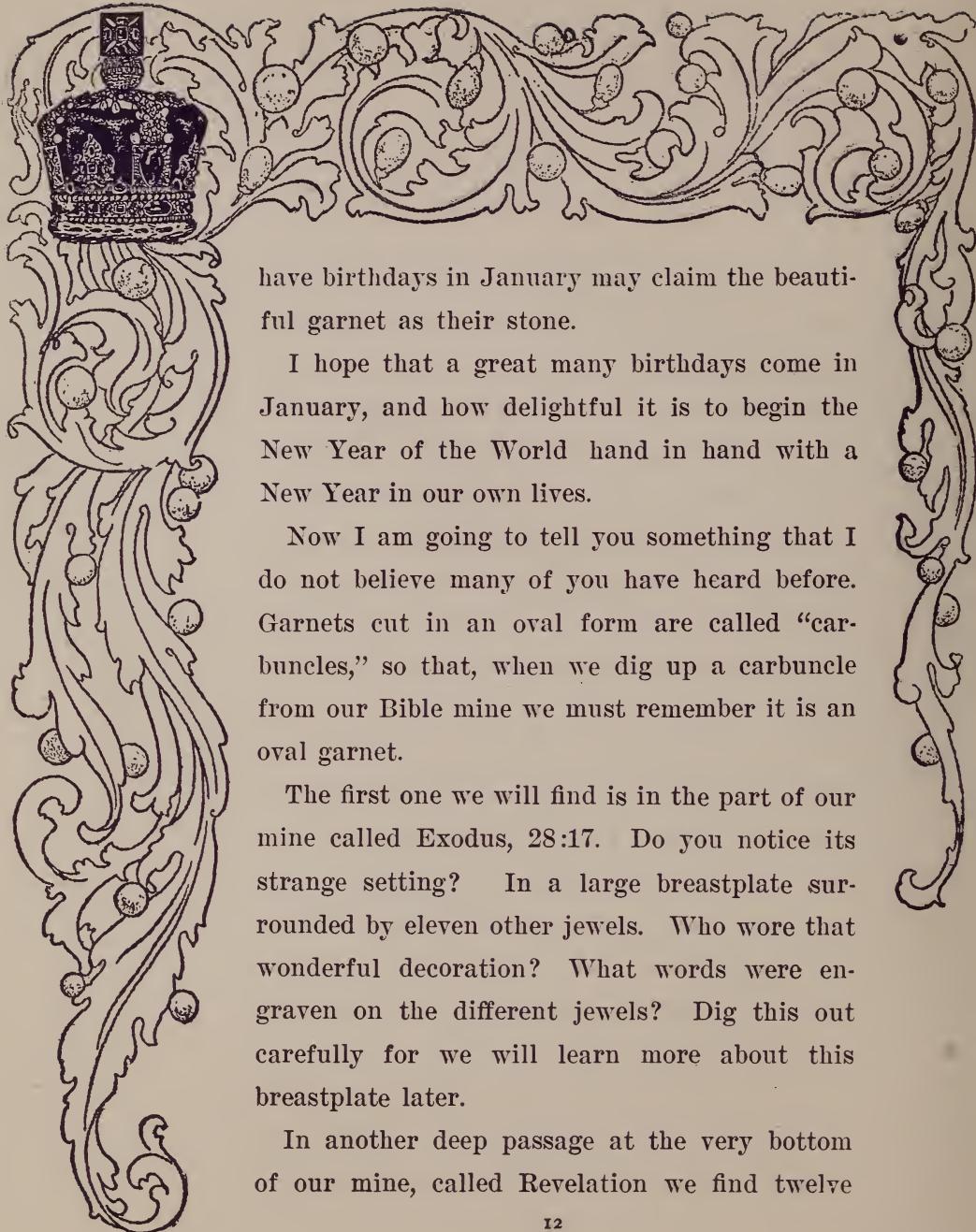
We need not really go down into the earth and work in the dark like other miners. First thing we want is a lamp. Have you ever watched the men go down into the mouth of a mine, each with a little lamp fastened in front of his hat, to show him the way through the darkness?

Can you guess what our mine is? It is the Bible.

In Psalm 119:105, you will find a costly lamp trimmed and burning ready to light our footsteps.

Now we will dig for the jewels.

The first one we pick out is a rich crimson jewel called the "Garnet." Why? Because the Garnet is our birthstone for the first month in the year. Many hundreds of years ago, a very wise man, who spent his days studying about precious stones named a jewel for each month in the year, and called it the "birthstone" of the month. The Garnet he selected as the birthstone for January so that all the boys and girls who



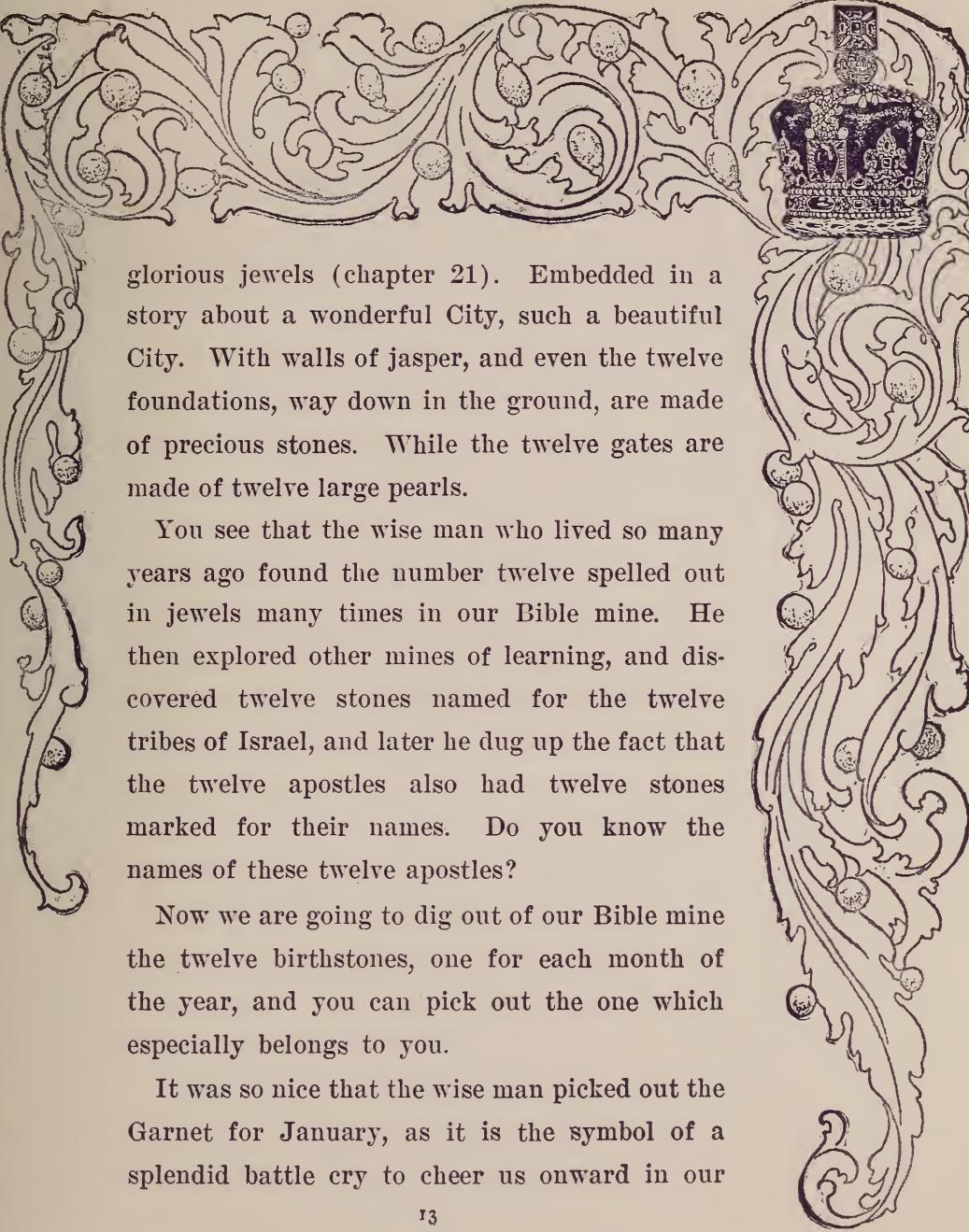
have birthdays in January may claim the beautiful garnet as their stone.

I hope that a great many birthdays come in January, and how delightful it is to begin the New Year of the World hand in hand with a New Year in our own lives.

Now I am going to tell you something that I do not believe many of you have heard before. Garnets cut in an oval form are called "carbuncles," so that, when we dig up a carbuncle from our Bible mine we must remember it is an oval garnet.

The first one we will find is in the part of our mine called Exodus, 28:17. Do you notice its strange setting? In a large breastplate surrounded by eleven other jewels. Who wore that wonderful decoration? What words were engraved on the different jewels? Dig this out carefully for we will learn more about this breastplate later.

In another deep passage at the very bottom of our mine, called Revelation we find twelve

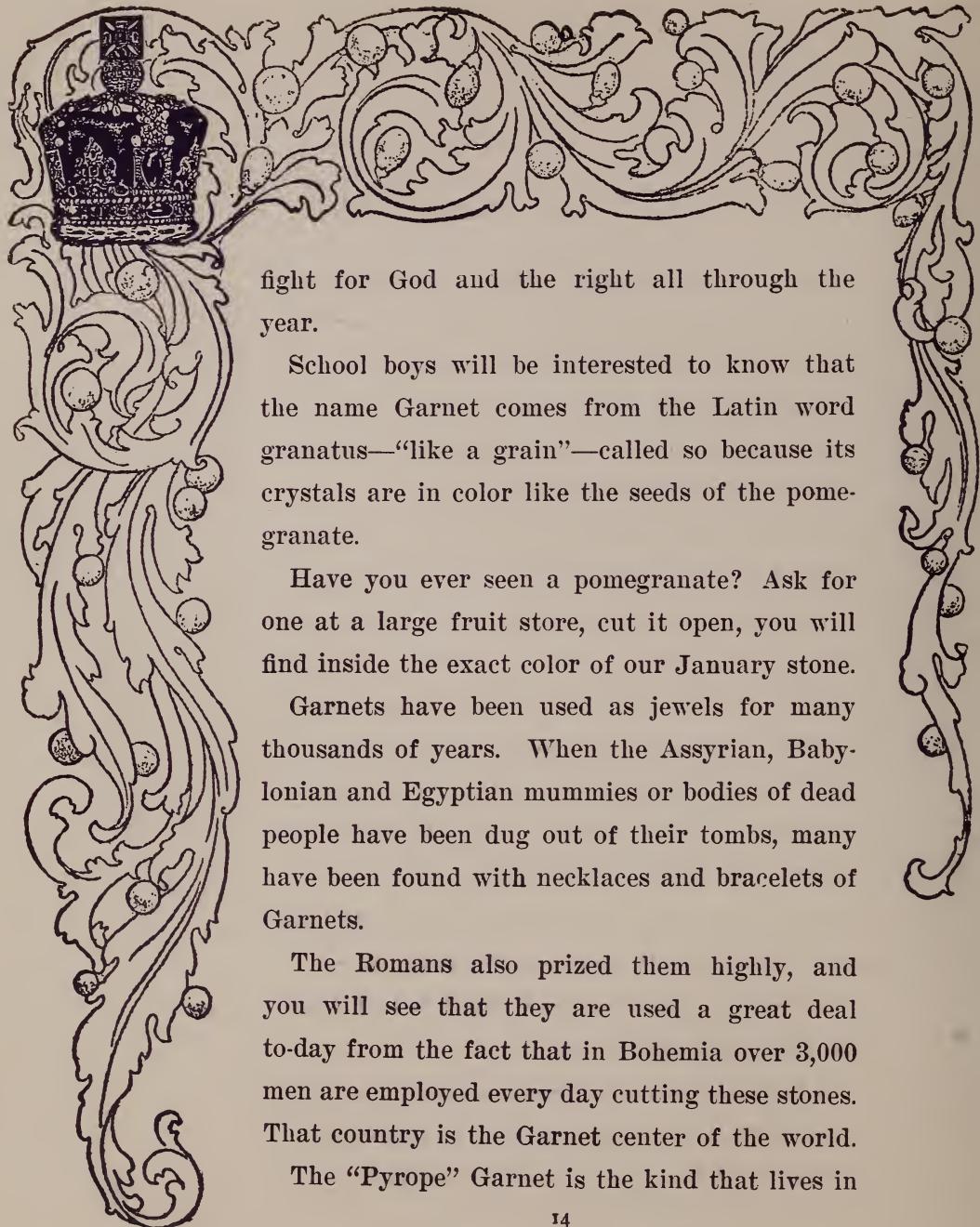


glorious jewels (chapter 21). Embedded in a story about a wonderful City, such a beautiful City. With walls of jasper, and even the twelve foundations, way down in the ground, are made of precious stones. While the twelve gates are made of twelve large pearls.

You see that the wise man who lived so many years ago found the number twelve spelled out in jewels many times in our Bible mine. He then explored other mines of learning, and discovered twelve stones named for the twelve tribes of Israel, and later he dug up the fact that the twelve apostles also had twelve stones marked for their names. Do you know the names of these twelve apostles?

Now we are going to dig out of our Bible mine the twelve birthstones, one for each month of the year, and you can pick out the one which especially belongs to you.

It was so nice that the wise man picked out the Garnet for January, as it is the symbol of a splendid battle cry to cheer us onward in our



fight for God and the right all through the year.

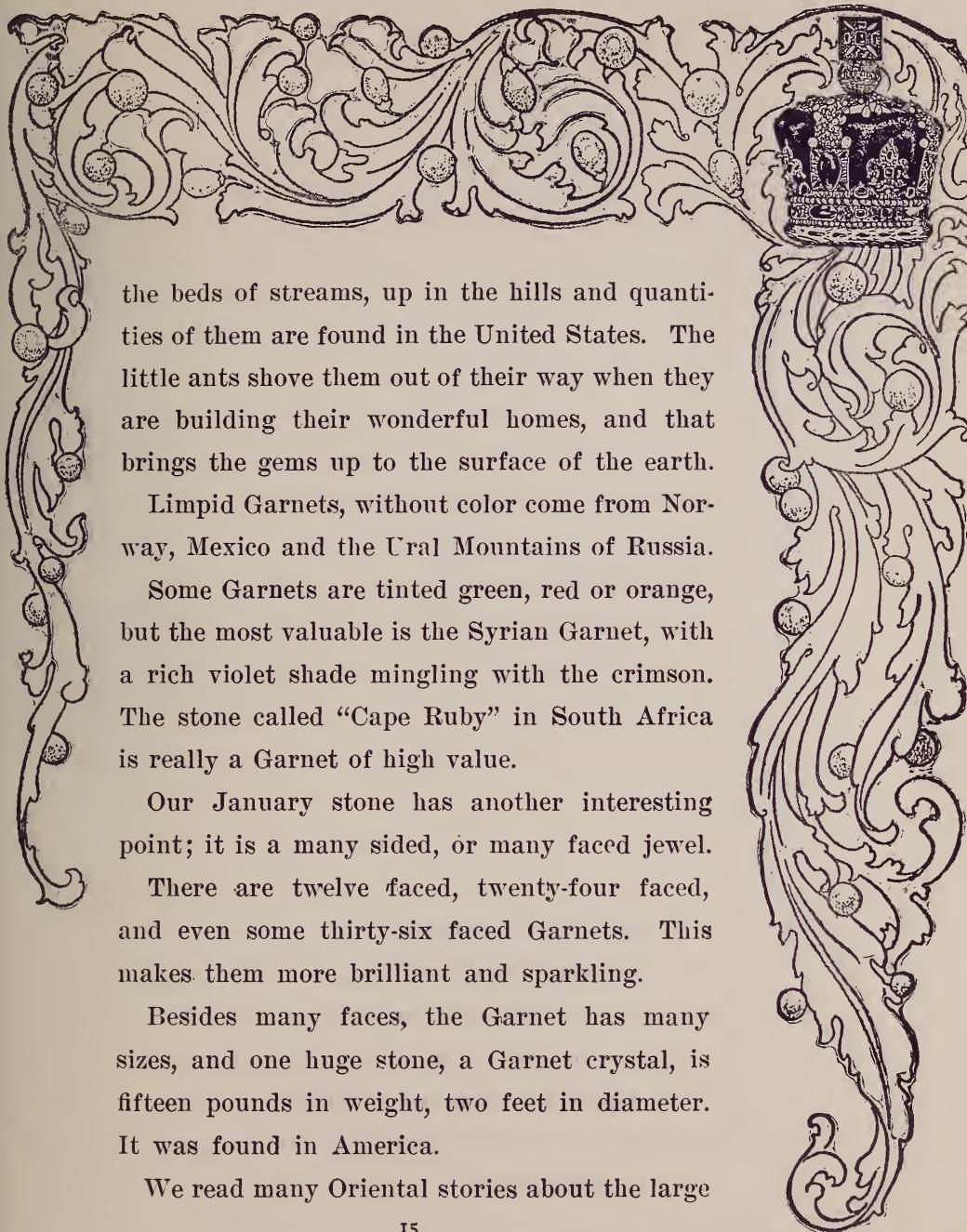
School boys will be interested to know that the name Garnet comes from the Latin word *granatus*—"like a grain"—called so because its crystals are in color like the seeds of the pomegranate.

Have you ever seen a pomegranate? Ask for one at a large fruit store, cut it open, you will find inside the exact color of our January stone.

Garnets have been used as jewels for many thousands of years. When the Assyrian, Babylonian and Egyptian mummies or bodies of dead people have been dug out of their tombs, many have been found with necklaces and bracelets of Garnets.

The Romans also prized them highly, and you will see that they are used a great deal to-day from the fact that in Bohemia over 3,000 men are employed every day cutting these stones. That country is the Garnet center of the world.

The "Pyrope" Garnet is the kind that lives in



the beds of streams, up in the hills and quantities of them are found in the United States. The little ants shove them out of their way when they are building their wonderful homes, and that brings the gems up to the surface of the earth.

Limpid Garnets, without color come from Norway, Mexico and the Ural Mountains of Russia.

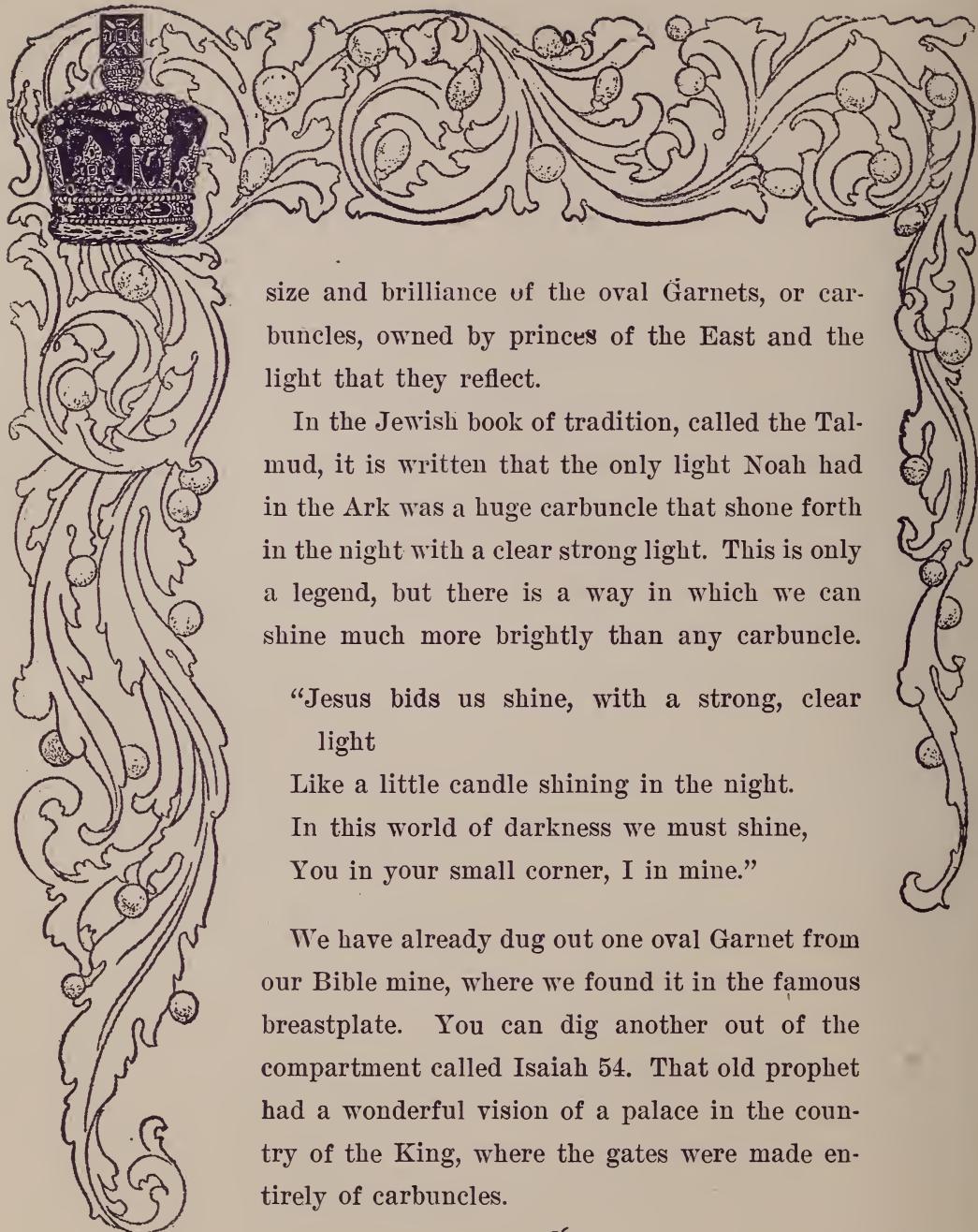
Some Garnets are tinted green, red or orange, but the most valuable is the Syrian Garnet, with a rich violet shade mingling with the crimson. The stone called "Cape Ruby" in South Africa is really a Garnet of high value.

Our January stone has another interesting point; it is a many sided, or many faced jewel.

There are twelve faced, twenty-four faced, and even some thirty-six faced Garnets. This makes them more brilliant and sparkling.

Besides many faces, the Garnet has many sizes, and one huge stone, a Garnet crystal, is fifteen pounds in weight, two feet in diameter. It was found in America.

We read many Oriental stories about the large



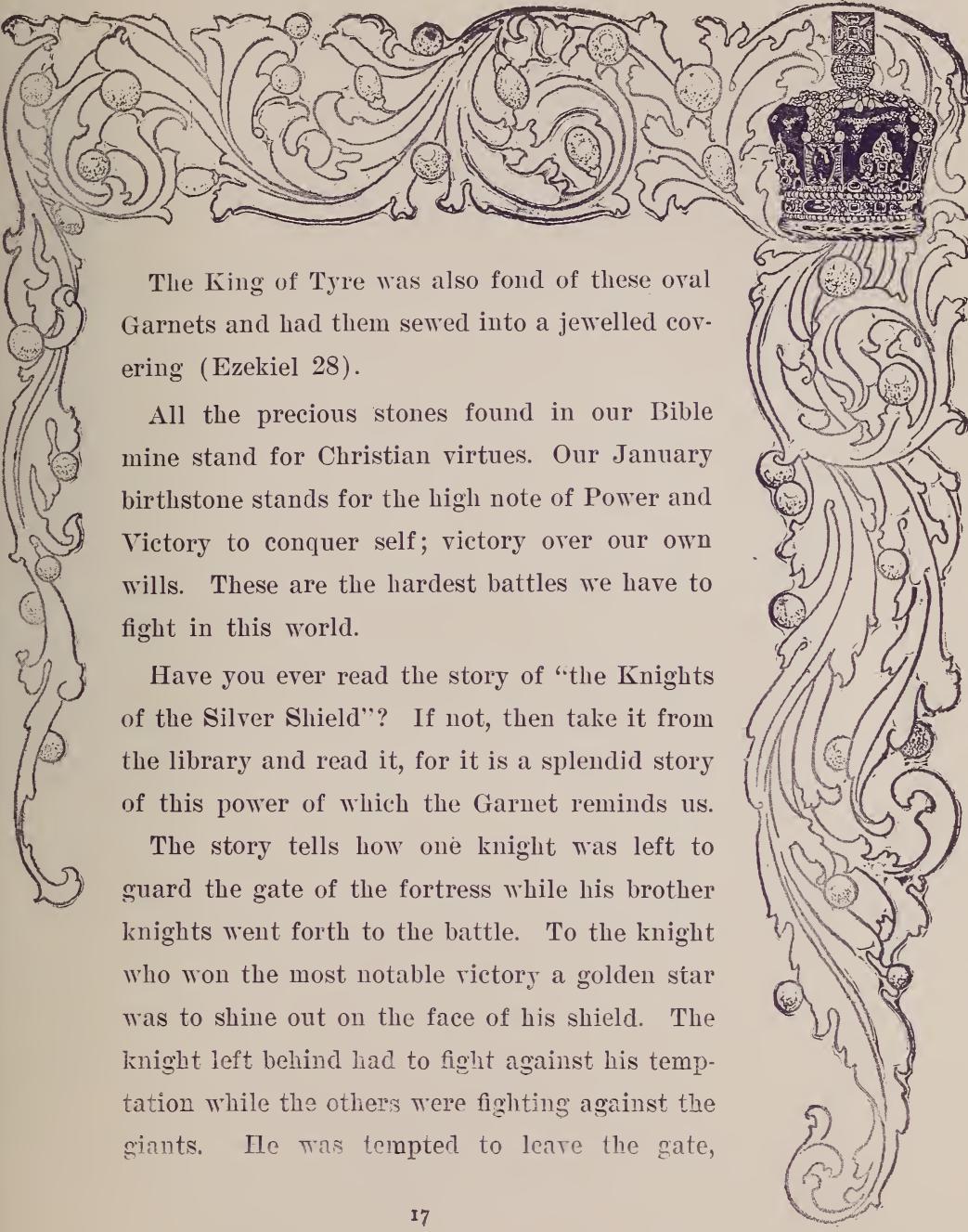
size and brilliance of the oval Garnets, or carbuncles, owned by princes of the East and the light that they reflect.

In the Jewish book of tradition, called the Talmud, it is written that the only light Noah had in the Ark was a huge carbuncle that shone forth in the night with a clear strong light. This is only a legend, but there is a way in which we can shine much more brightly than any carbuncle.

"Jesus bids us shine, with a strong, clear
light

Like a little candle shining in the night.
In this world of darkness we must shine,
You in your small corner, I in mine."

We have already dug out one oval Garnet from our Bible mine, where we found it in the famous breastplate. You can dig another out of the compartment called Isaiah 54. That old prophet had a wonderful vision of a palace in the country of the King, where the gates were made entirely of carbuncles.

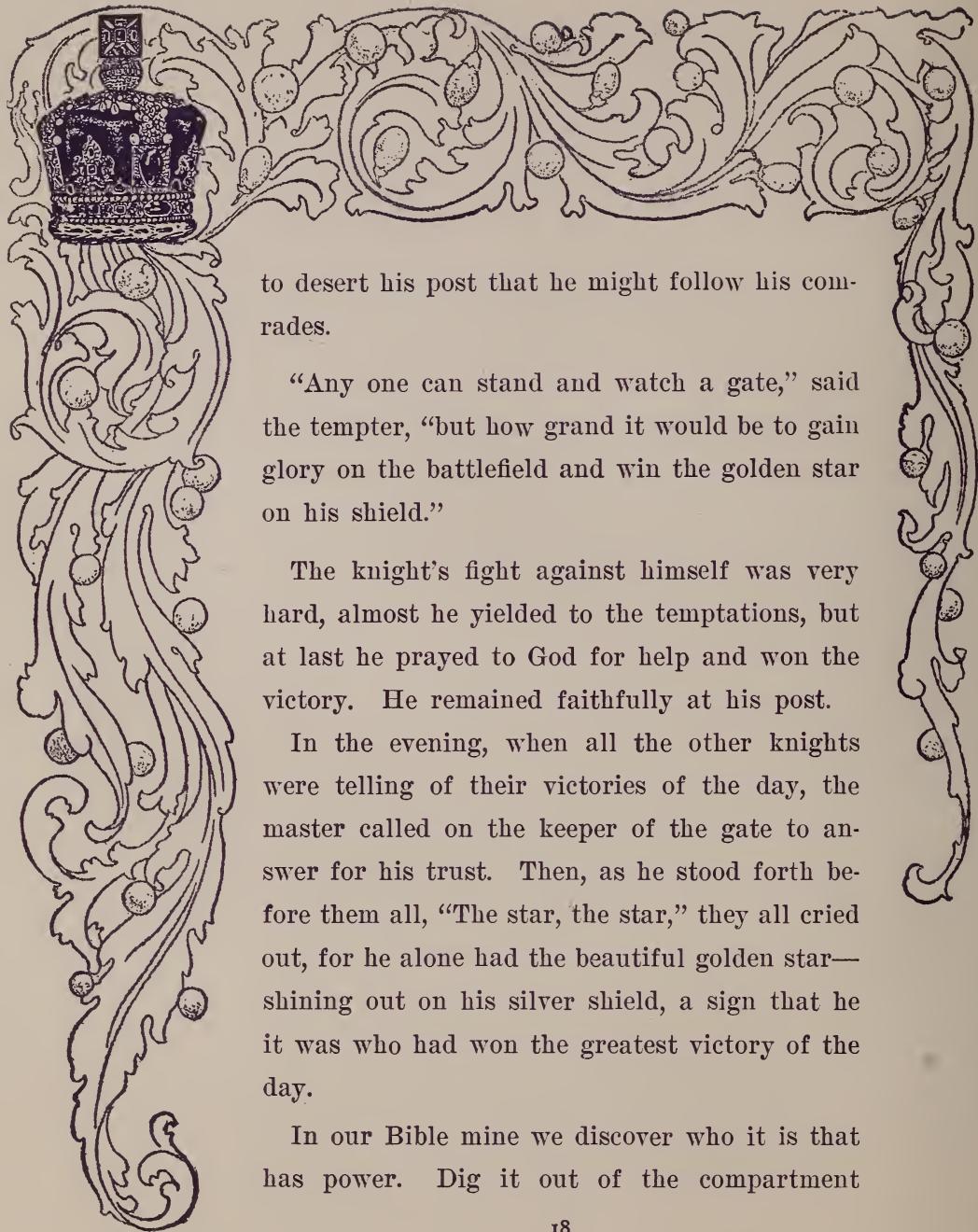


The King of Tyre was also fond of these oval Garnets and had them sewed into a jewelled covering (Ezekiel 28).

All the precious stones found in our Bible mine stand for Christian virtues. Our January birthstone stands for the high note of Power and Victory to conquer self; victory over our own wills. These are the hardest battles we have to fight in this world.

Have you ever read the story of "the Knights of the Silver Shield"? If not, then take it from the library and read it, for it is a splendid story of this power of which the Garnet reminds us.

The story tells how one knight was left to guard the gate of the fortress while his brother knights went forth to the battle. To the knight who won the most notable victory a golden star was to shine out on the face of his shield. The knight left behind had to fight against his temptation while the others were fighting against the giants. He was tempted to leave the gate,



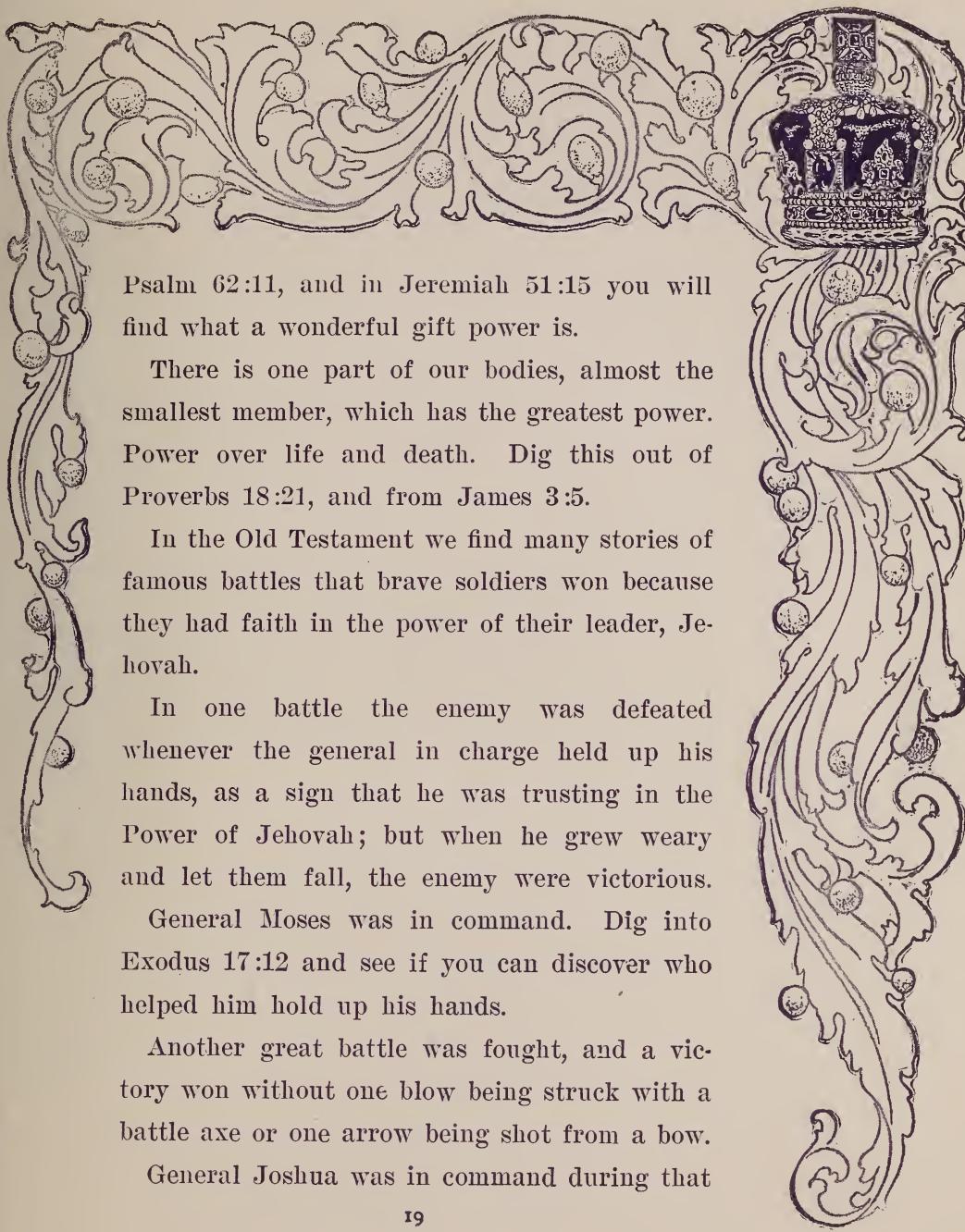
to desert his post that he might follow his comrades.

"Any one can stand and watch a gate," said the tempter, "but how grand it would be to gain glory on the battlefield and win the golden star on his shield."

The knight's fight against himself was very hard, almost he yielded to the temptations, but at last he prayed to God for help and won the victory. He remained faithfully at his post.

In the evening, when all the other knights were telling of their victories of the day, the master called on the keeper of the gate to answer for his trust. Then, as he stood forth before them all, "The star, the star," they all cried out, for he alone had the beautiful golden star—shining out on his silver shield, a sign that he it was who had won the greatest victory of the day.

In our Bible mine we discover who it is that has power. Dig it out of the compartment



Psalm 62:11, and in Jeremiah 51:15 you will find what a wonderful gift power is.

There is one part of our bodies, almost the smallest member, which has the greatest power. Power over life and death. Dig this out of Proverbs 18:21, and from James 3:5.

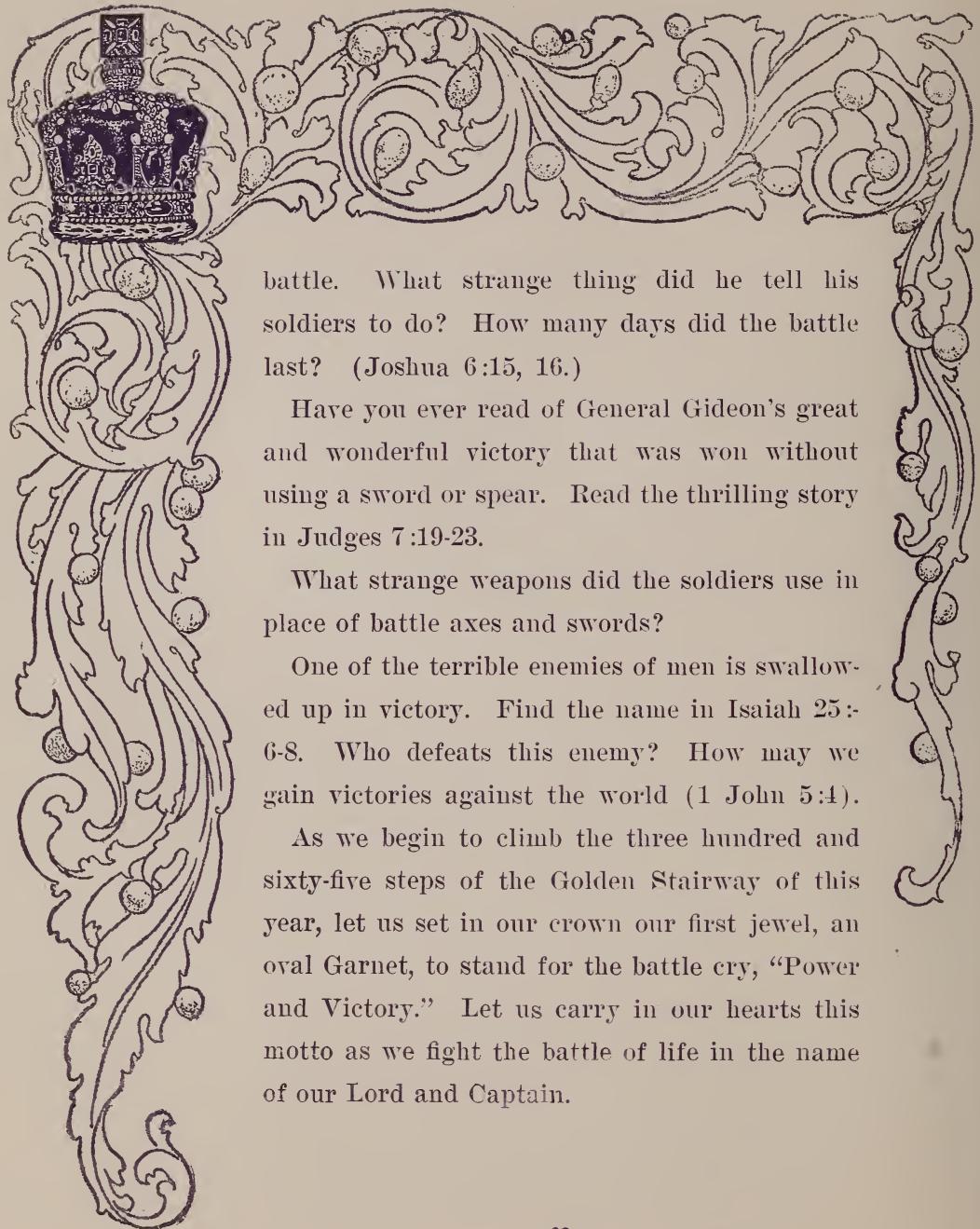
In the Old Testament we find many stories of famous battles that brave soldiers won because they had faith in the power of their leader, Jehovah.

In one battle the enemy was defeated whenever the general in charge held up his hands, as a sign that he was trusting in the Power of Jehovah; but when he grew weary and let them fall, the enemy were victorious.

General Moses was in command. Dig into Exodus 17:12 and see if you can discover who helped him hold up his hands.

Another great battle was fought, and a victory won without one blow being struck with a battle axe or one arrow being shot from a bow.

General Joshua was in command during that



battle. What strange thing did he tell his soldiers to do? How many days did the battle last? (Joshua 6:15, 16.)

Have you ever read of General Gideon's great and wonderful victory that was won without using a sword or spear. Read the thrilling story in Judges 7:19-23.

What strange weapons did the soldiers use in place of battle axes and swords?

One of the terrible enemies of men is swallowed up in victory. Find the name in Isaiah 25:6-8. Who defeats this enemy? How may we gain victories against the world (1 John 5:4).

As we begin to climb the three hundred and sixty-five steps of the Golden Stairway of this year, let us set in our crown our first jewel, an oval Garnet, to stand for the battle cry, "Power and Victory." Let us carry in our hearts this motto as we fight the battle of life in the name of our Lord and Captain.

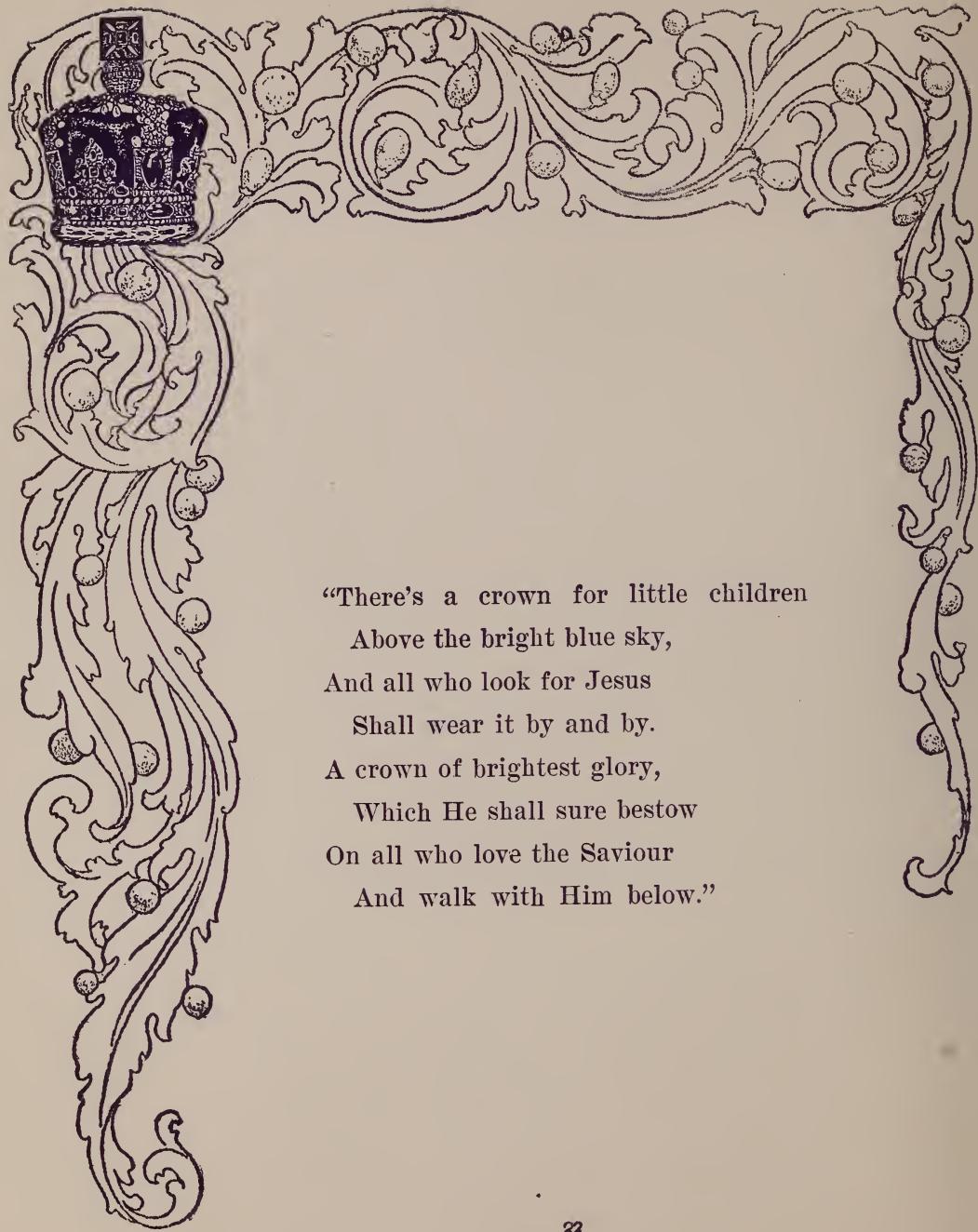


MOTTO FOR JANUARY:

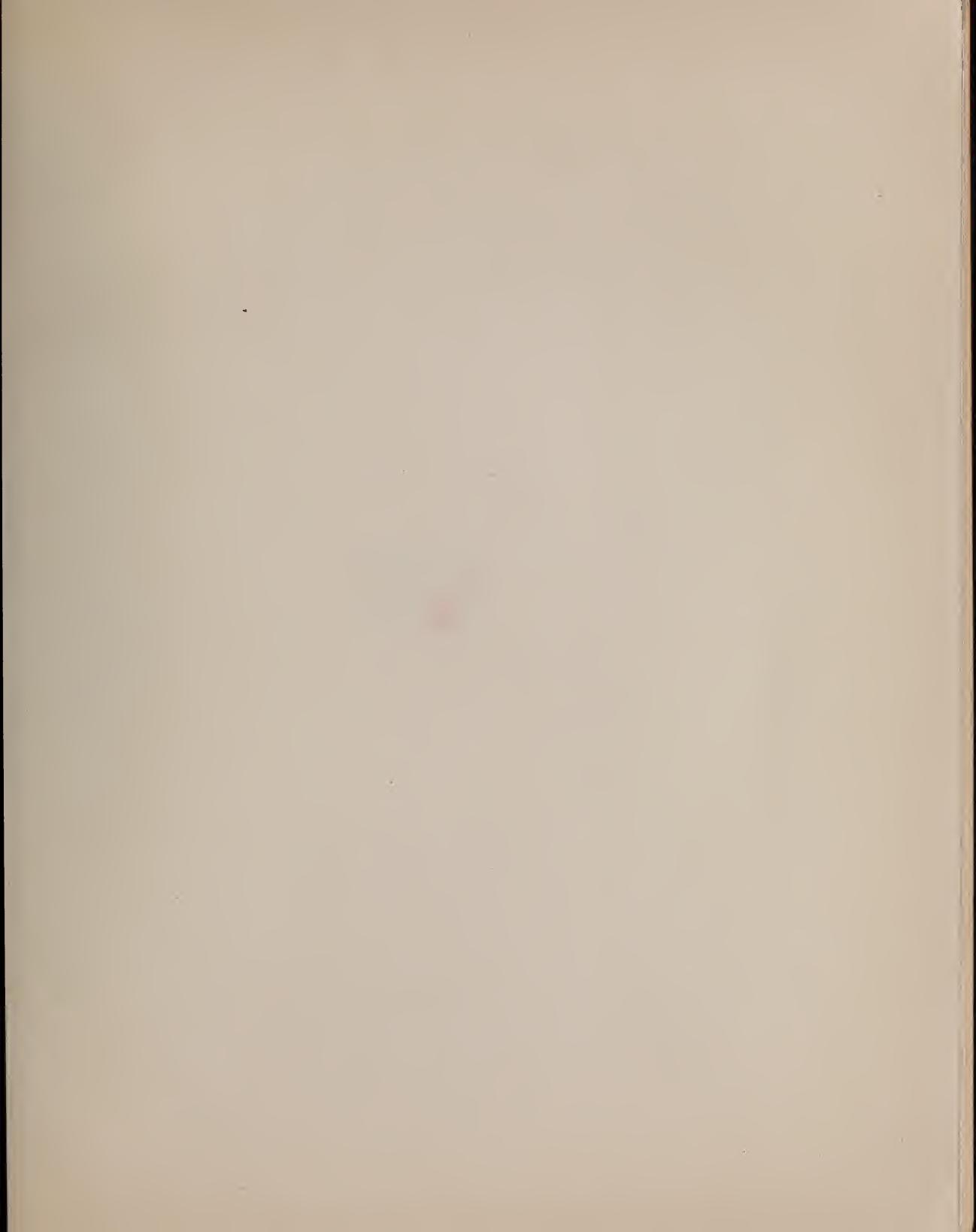
"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."—

1 Cor. xv:57.

JANUARY BIRTHSTONE—THE GARNET.



"There's a crown for little children
Above the bright blue sky,
And all who look for Jesus
Shall wear it by and by.
A crown of brightest glory,
Which He shall sure bestow
On all who love the Saviour
And walk with Him below."







FEBRUARY

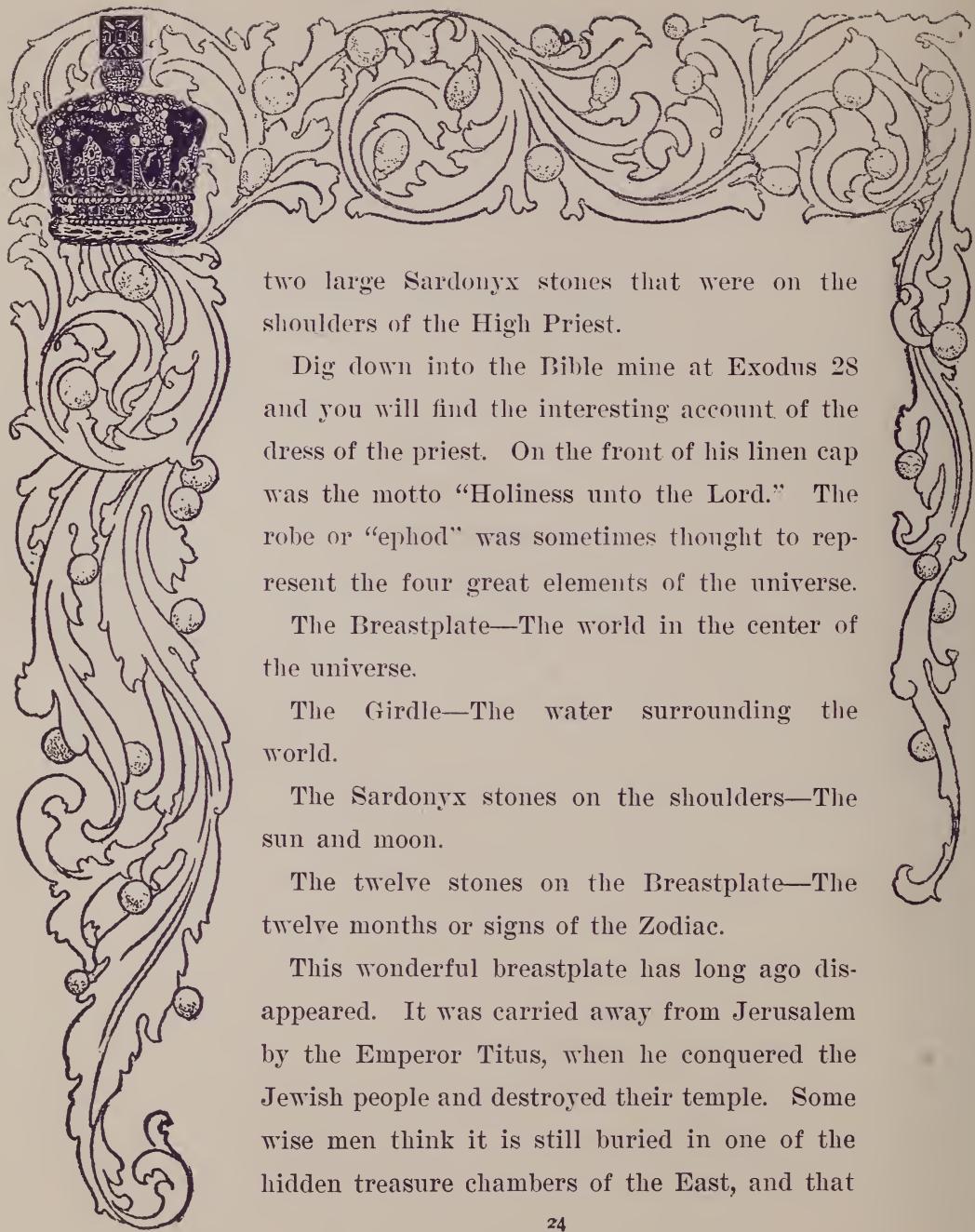
THE AMETHYST.

BEFORE we begin to dig up our crown jewel for the month of February, let us look at the breastplate of Aaron, the High Priest of the Children of Israel.

It was called "Breastplate of Judgment," made "for glory and for beauty."

The breastplate was of gold, made like a double pouch or bag, eight inches square, with an inside pocket, which, some think, held the wonderful "Urim and Thummin." These were mystical words worn on the breast of the High Priest when he went to worship and pray to the Lord (Exodus 28:30). In some way this Urim and Thummin helped to show the priest the answer to his prayers.

In the breastplate were the twelve precious stones on each of which was engraved the name of one of the tribes of Israel in Hebrew letters. The whole breastplate hung by gold chains from



two large Sardonyx stones that were on the shoulders of the High Priest.

Dig down into the Bible mine at Exodus 28 and you will find the interesting account of the dress of the priest. On the front of his linen cap was the motto "Holiness unto the Lord." The robe or "ephod" was sometimes thought to represent the four great elements of the universe.

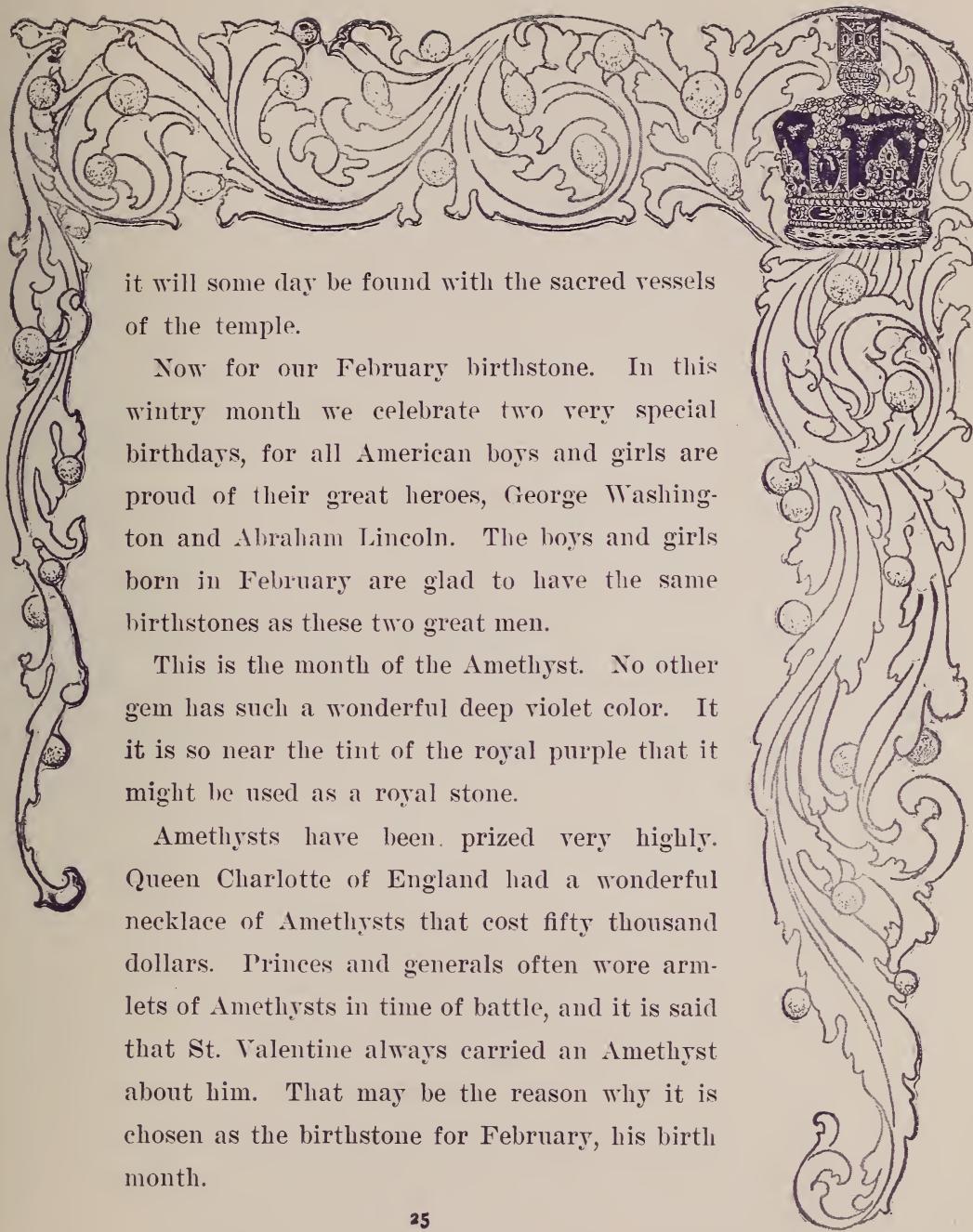
The Breastplate—The world in the center of the universe.

The Girdle—The water surrounding the world.

The Sardonyx stones on the shoulders—The sun and moon.

The twelve stones on the Breastplate—The twelve months or signs of the Zodiac.

This wonderful breastplate has long ago disappeared. It was carried away from Jerusalem by the Emperor Titus, when he conquered the Jewish people and destroyed their temple. Some wise men think it is still buried in one of the hidden treasure chambers of the East, and that

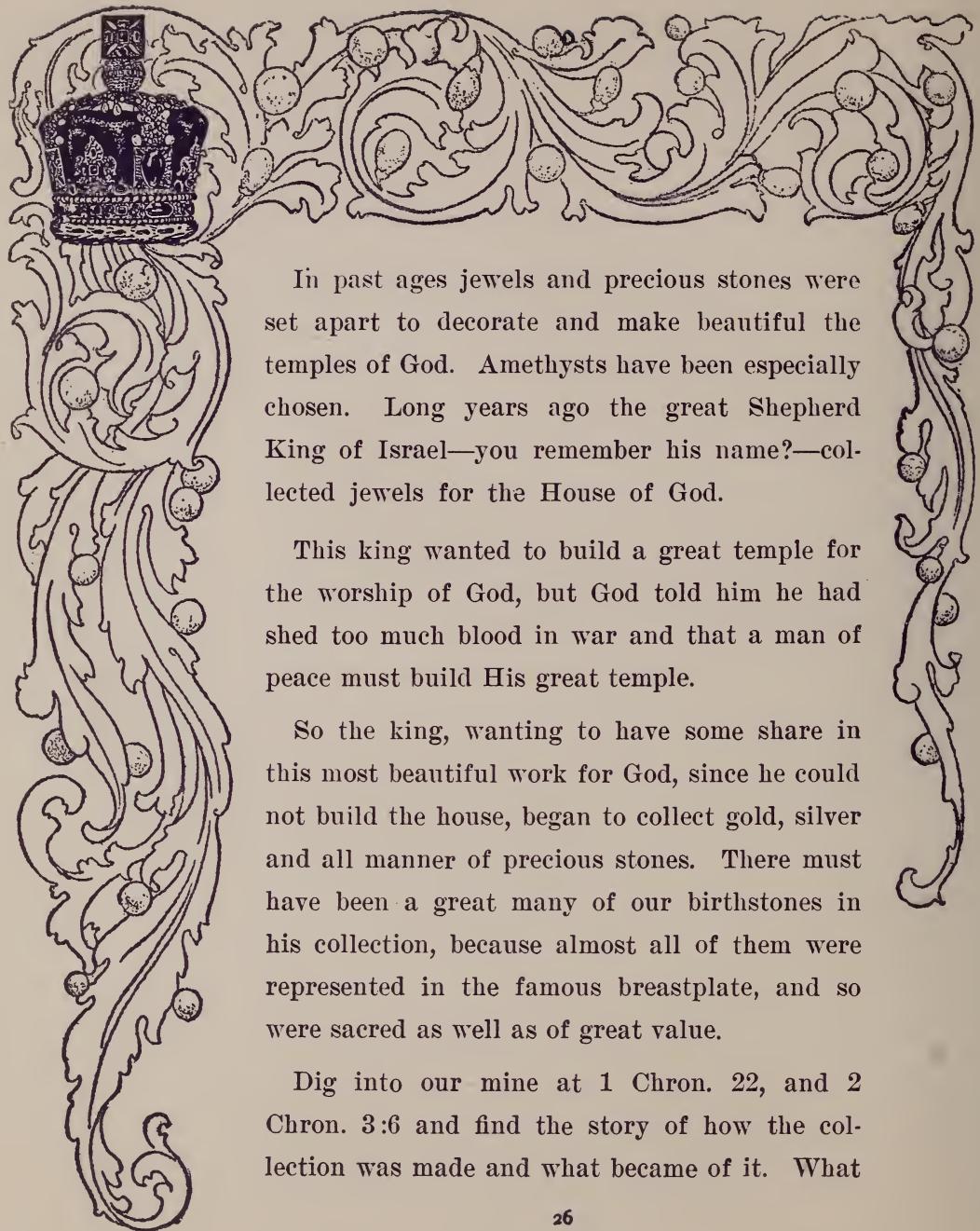


it will some day be found with the sacred vessels of the temple.

Now for our February birthstone. In this wintry month we celebrate two very special birthdays, for all American boys and girls are proud of their great heroes, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The boys and girls born in February are glad to have the same birthstones as these two great men.

This is the month of the Amethyst. No other gem has such a wonderful deep violet color. It is so near the tint of the royal purple that it might be used as a royal stone.

Amethysts have been prized very highly. Queen Charlotte of England had a wonderful necklace of Amethysts that cost fifty thousand dollars. Princes and generals often wore armlets of Amethysts in time of battle, and it is said that St. Valentine always carried an Amethyst about him. That may be the reason why it is chosen as the birthstone for February, his birth month.

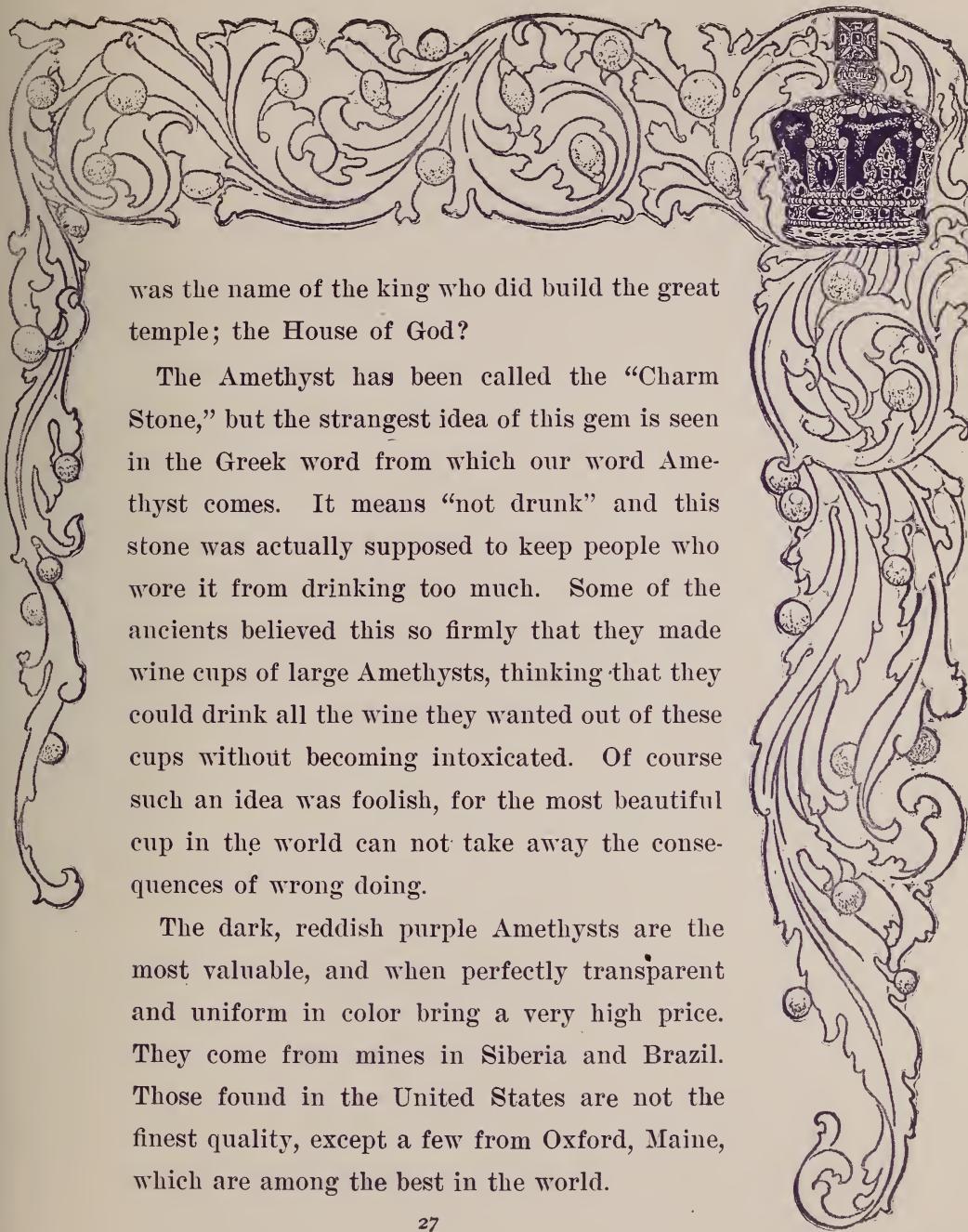


In past ages jewels and precious stones were set apart to decorate and make beautiful the temples of God. Amethysts have been especially chosen. Long years ago the great Shepherd King of Israel—you remember his name?—collected jewels for the House of God.

This king wanted to build a great temple for the worship of God, but God told him he had shed too much blood in war and that a man of peace must build His great temple.

So the king, wanting to have some share in this most beautiful work for God, since he could not build the house, began to collect gold, silver and all manner of precious stones. There must have been a great many of our birthstones in his collection, because almost all of them were represented in the famous breastplate, and so were sacred as well as of great value.

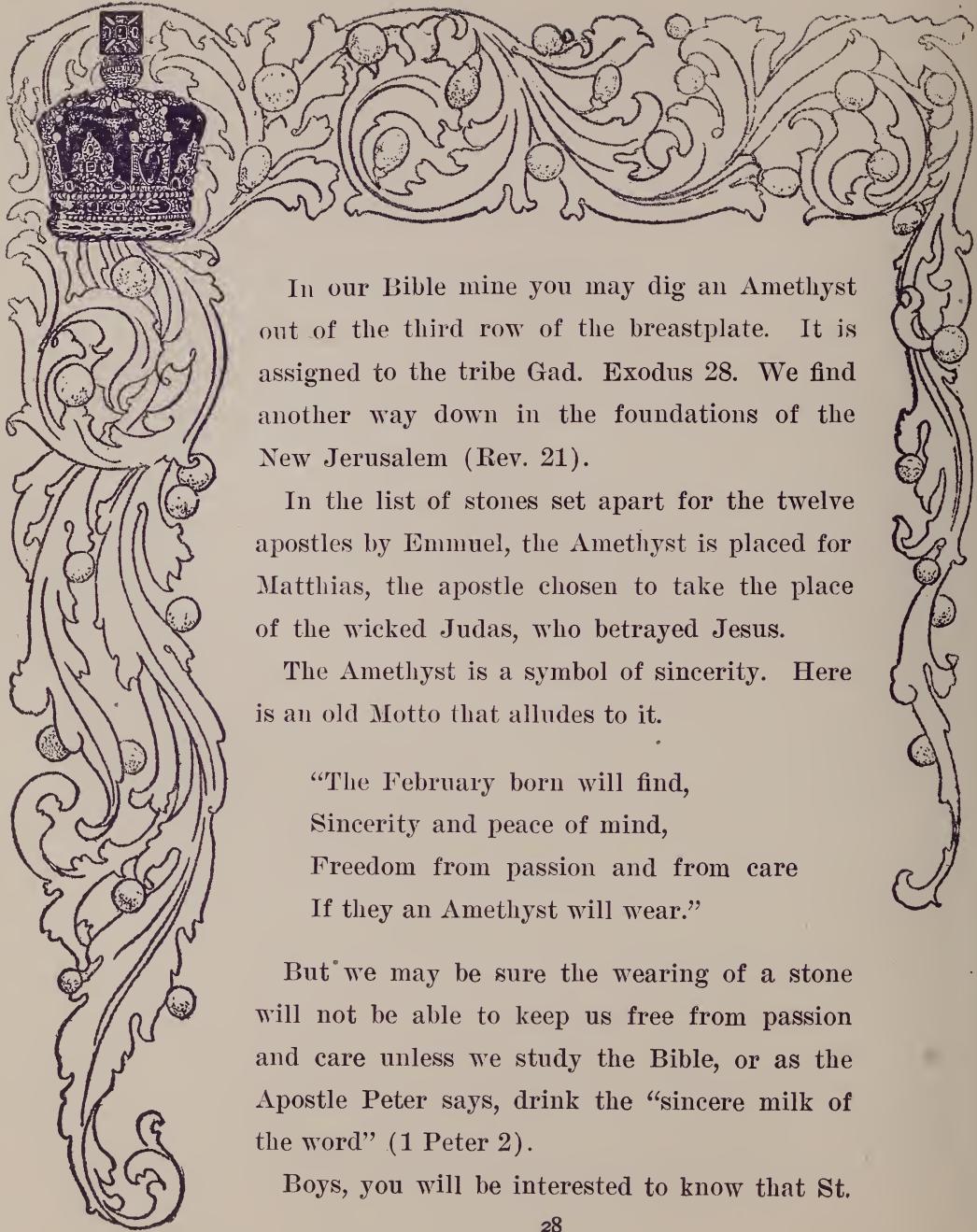
Dig into our mine at 1 Chron. 22, and 2 Chron. 3:6 and find the story of how the collection was made and what became of it. What



was the name of the king who did build the great temple; the House of God?

The Amethyst has been called the "Charm Stone," but the strangest idea of this gem is seen in the Greek word from which our word Amethyst comes. It means "not drunk" and this stone was actually supposed to keep people who wore it from drinking too much. Some of the ancients believed this so firmly that they made wine cups of large Amethysts, thinking that they could drink all the wine they wanted out of these cups without becoming intoxicated. Of course such an idea was foolish, for the most beautiful cup in the world can not take away the consequences of wrong doing.

The dark, reddish purple Amethysts are the most valuable, and when perfectly transparent and uniform in color bring a very high price. They come from mines in Siberia and Brazil. Those found in the United States are not the finest quality, except a few from Oxford, Maine, which are among the best in the world.



In our Bible mine you may dig an Amethyst out of the third row of the breastplate. It is assigned to the tribe Gad. Exodus 28. We find another way down in the foundations of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21).

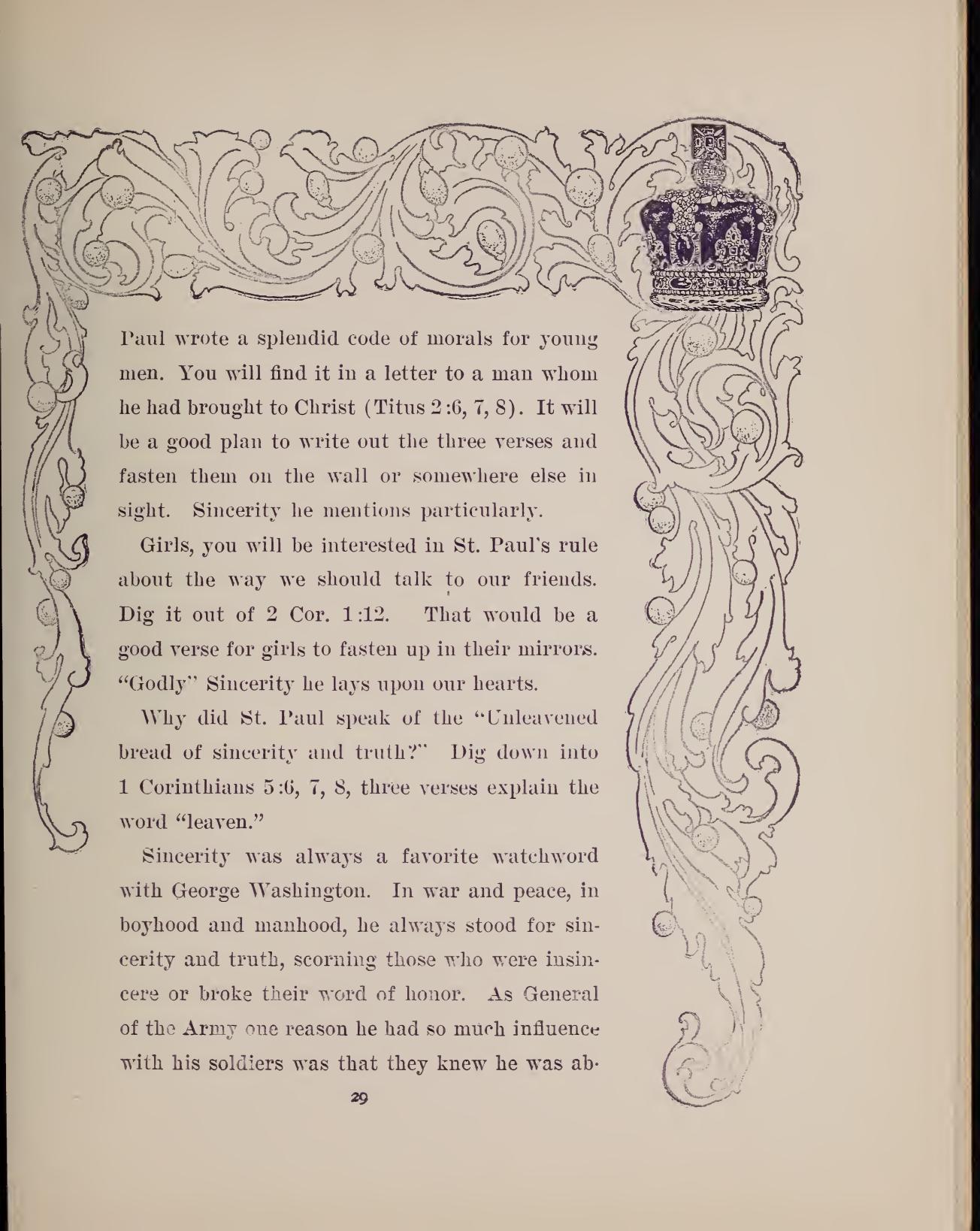
In the list of stones set apart for the twelve apostles by Emmanuel, the Amethyst is placed for Matthias, the apostle chosen to take the place of the wicked Judas, who betrayed Jesus.

The Amethyst is a symbol of sincerity. Here is an old Motto that alludes to it.

“The February born will find,
Sincerity and peace of mind,
Freedom from passion and from care
If they an Amethyst will wear.”

But we may be sure the wearing of a stone will not be able to keep us free from passion and care unless we study the Bible, or as the Apostle Peter says, drink the “sincere milk of the word” (1 Peter 2).

Boys, you will be interested to know that St.

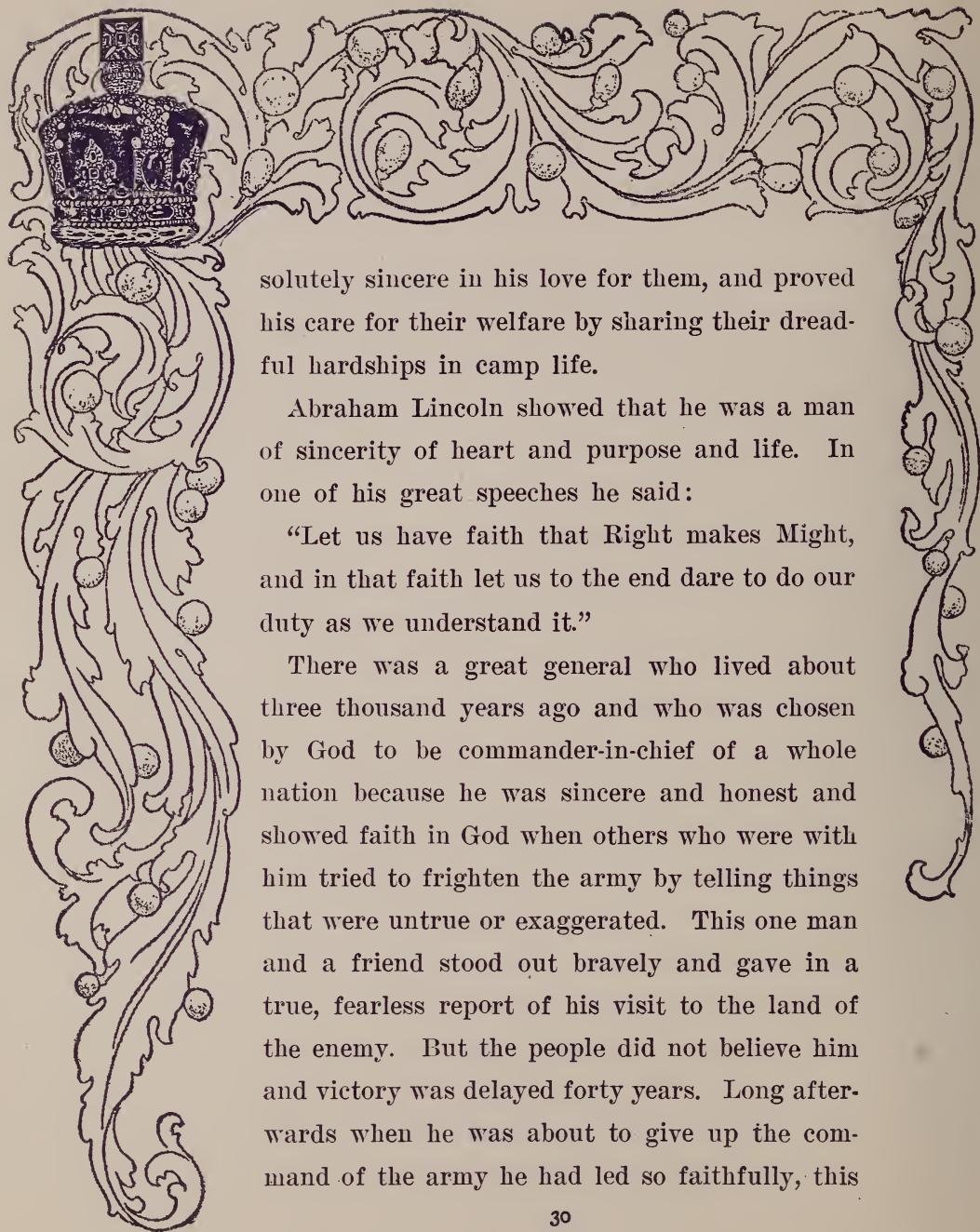


Paul wrote a splendid code of morals for young men. You will find it in a letter to a man whom he had brought to Christ (Titus 2:6, 7, 8). It will be a good plan to write out the three verses and fasten them on the wall or somewhere else in sight. Sincerity he mentions particularly.

Girls, you will be interested in St. Paul's rule about the way we should talk to our friends. Dig it out of 2 Cor. 1:12. That would be a good verse for girls to fasten up in their mirrors. "Godly" Sincerity he lays upon our hearts.

Why did St. Paul speak of the "Unleavened bread of sincerity and truth?" Dig down into 1 Corinthians 5:6, 7, 8, three verses explain the word "leaven."

Sincerity was always a favorite watchword with George Washington. In war and peace, in boyhood and manhood, he always stood for sincerity and truth, scorning those who were insincere or broke their word of honor. As General of the Army one reason he had so much influence with his soldiers was that they knew he was ab-

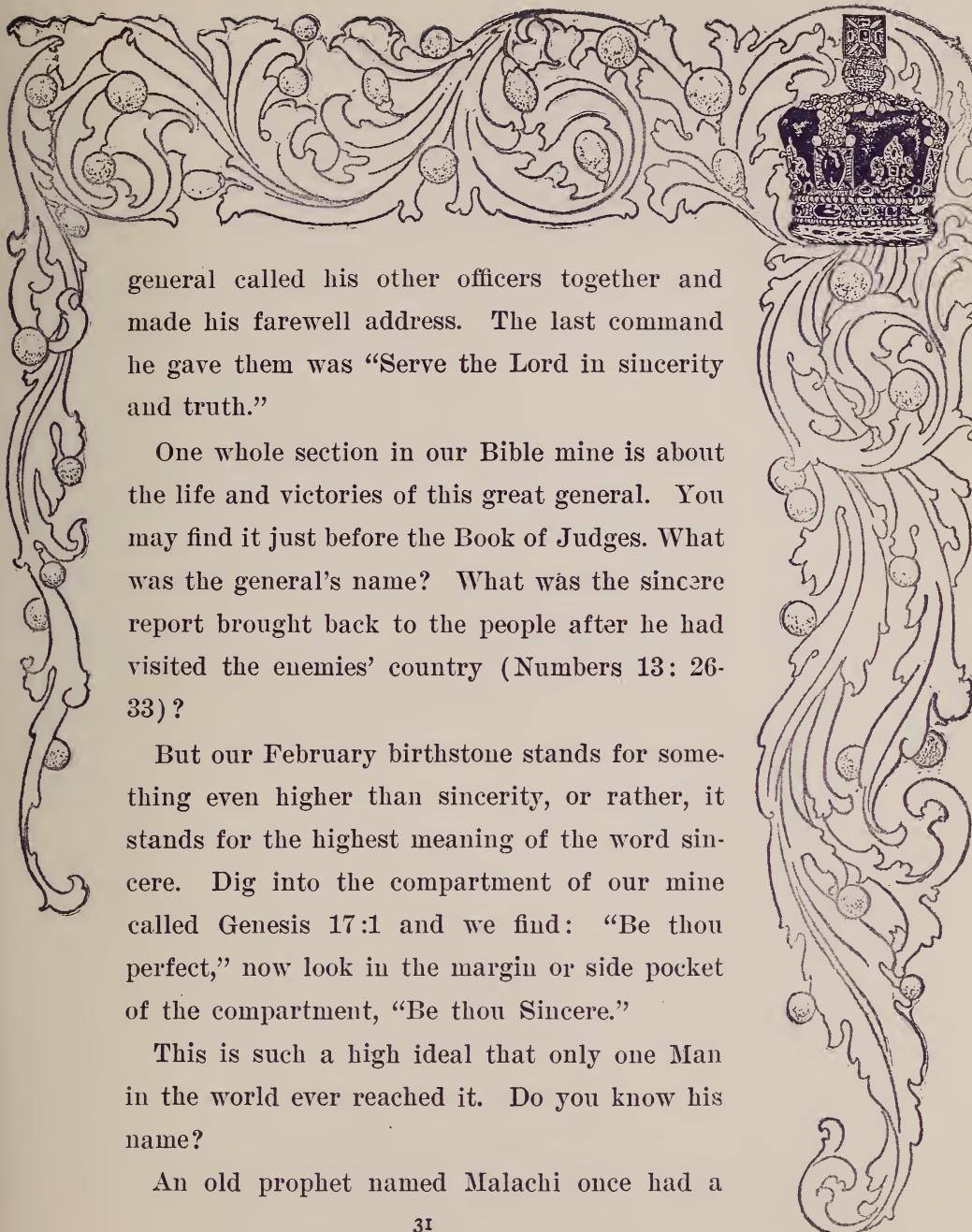


solutely sincere in his love for them, and proved his care for their welfare by sharing their dreadful hardships in camp life.

Abraham Lincoln showed that he was a man of sincerity of heart and purpose and life. In one of his great speeches he said:

“Let us have faith that Right makes Might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it.”

There was a great general who lived about three thousand years ago and who was chosen by God to be commander-in-chief of a whole nation because he was sincere and honest and showed faith in God when others who were with him tried to frighten the army by telling things that were untrue or exaggerated. This one man and a friend stood out bravely and gave in a true, fearless report of his visit to the land of the enemy. But the people did not believe him and victory was delayed forty years. Long afterwards when he was about to give up the command of the army he had led so faithfully, this



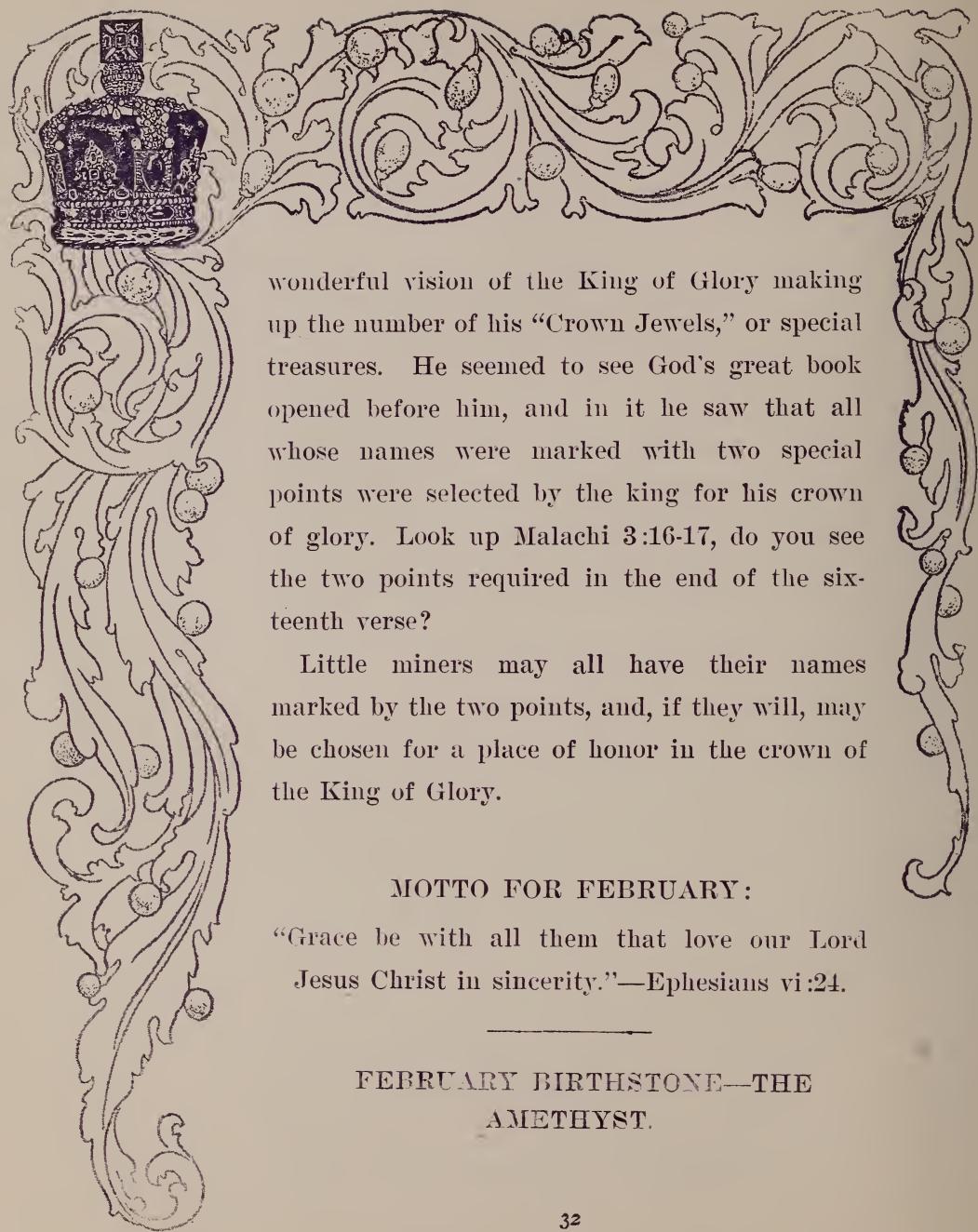
general called his other officers together and made his farewell address. The last command he gave them was "Serve the Lord in sincerity and truth."

One whole section in our Bible mine is about the life and victories of this great general. You may find it just before the Book of Judges. What was the general's name? What was the sincere report brought back to the people after he had visited the enemies' country (Numbers 13: 26-33)?

But our February birthstone stands for something even higher than sincerity, or rather, it stands for the highest meaning of the word sincere. Dig into the compartment of our mine called Genesis 17:1 and we find: "Be thou perfect," now look in the margin or side pocket of the compartment, "Be thou Sincere."

This is such a high ideal that only one Man in the world ever reached it. Do you know his name?

An old prophet named Malachi once had a



wonderful vision of the King of Glory making up the number of his "Crown Jewels," or special treasures. He seemed to see God's great book opened before him, and in it he saw that all whose names were marked with two special points were selected by the king for his crown of glory. Look up Malachi 3:16-17, do you see the two points required in the end of the sixteenth verse?

Little miners may all have their names marked by the two points, and, if they will, may be chosen for a place of honor in the crown of the King of Glory.

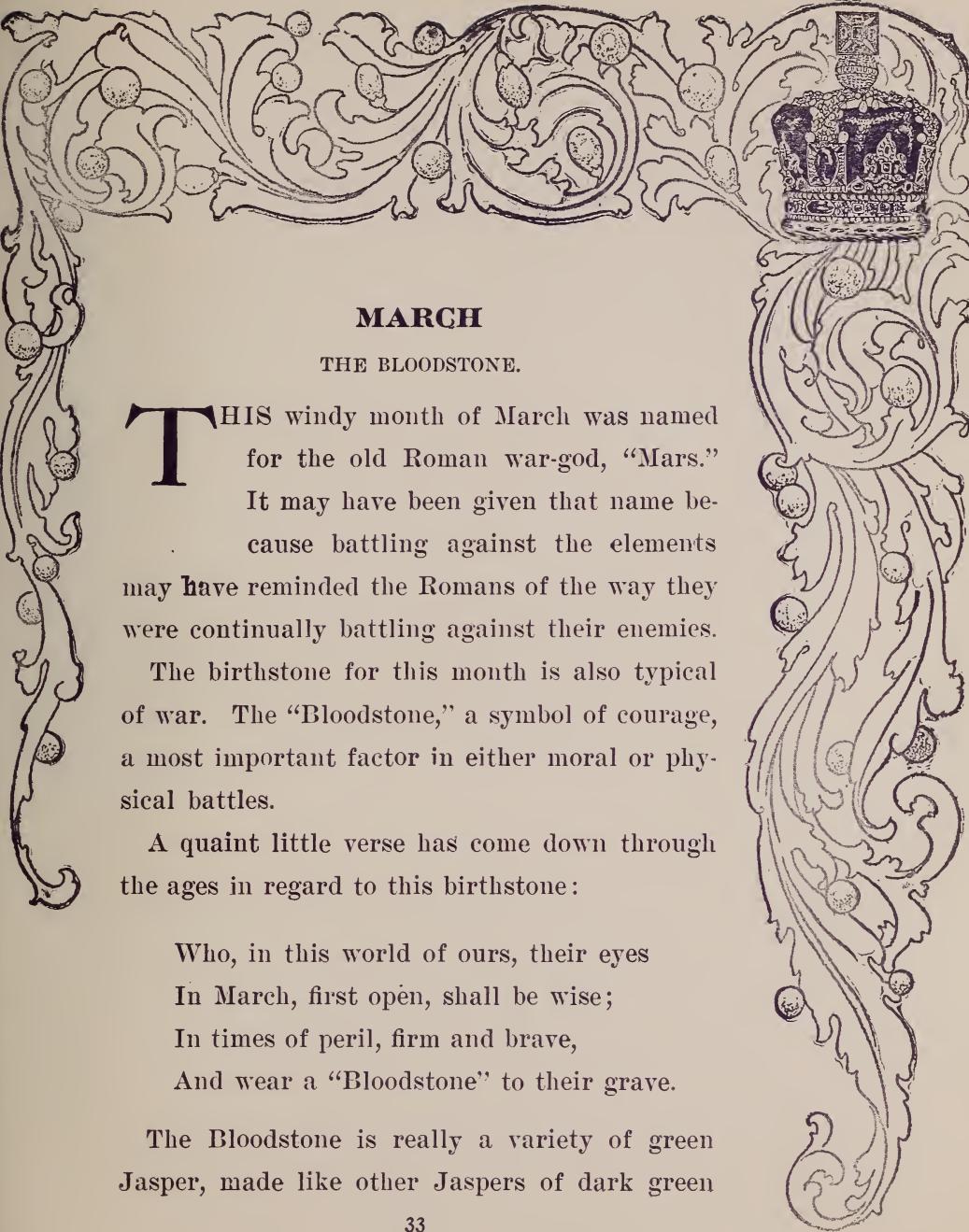
MOTTO FOR FEBRUARY:

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."—Ephesians vi:24.

FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE—THE AMETHYST.







MARCH

THE BLOODSTONE.

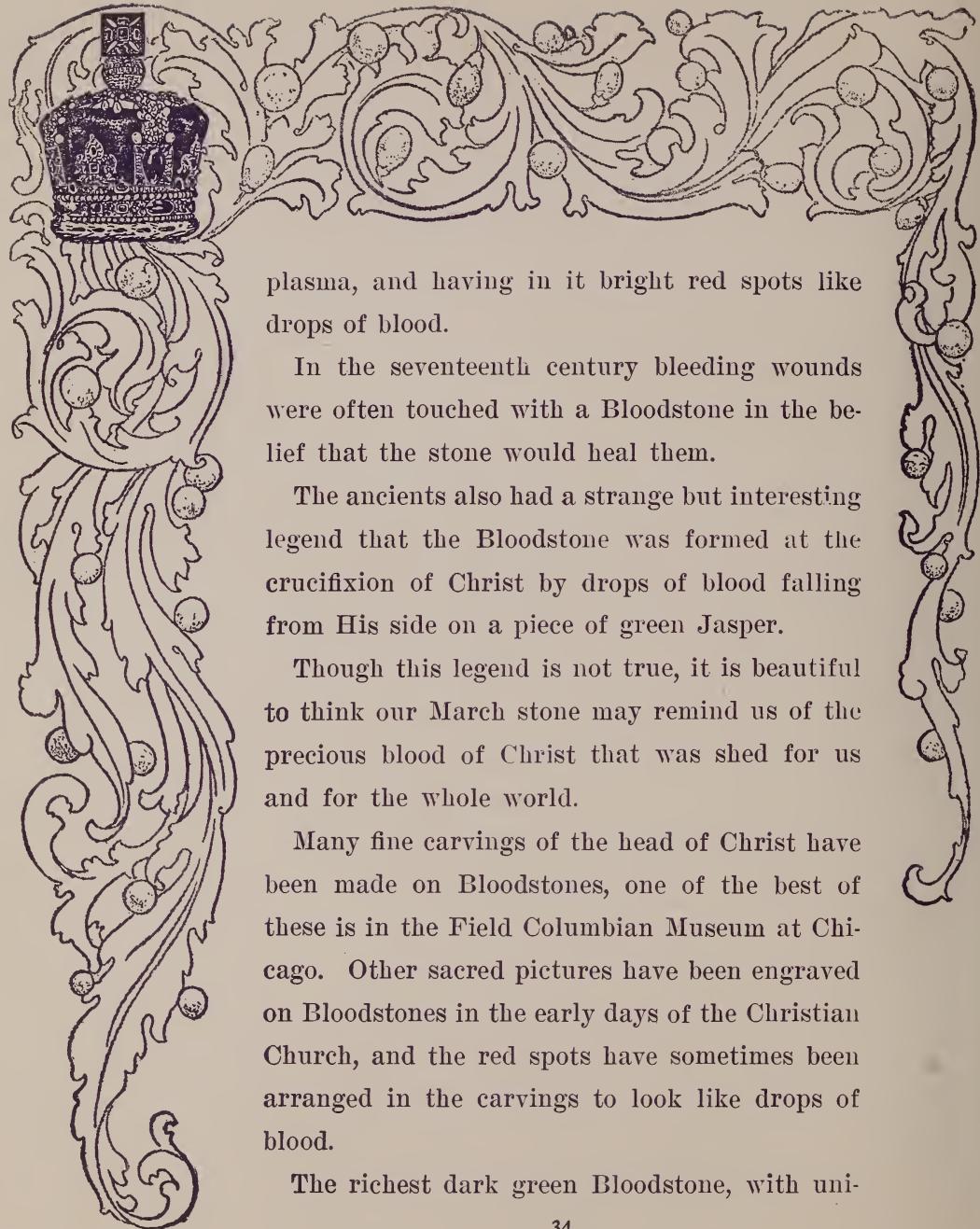
THIS windy month of March was named for the old Roman war-god, "Mars." It may have been given that name because battling against the elements may have reminded the Romans of the way they were continually battling against their enemies.

The birthstone for this month is also typical of war. The "Bloodstone," a symbol of courage, a most important factor in either moral or physical battles.

A quaint little verse has come down through the ages in regard to this birthstone:

Who, in this world of ours, their eyes
In March, first open, shall be wise;
In times of peril, firm and brave,
And wear a "Bloodstone" to their grave.

The Bloodstone is really a variety of green Jasper, made like other Jaspers of dark green



plasma, and having in it bright red spots like drops of blood.

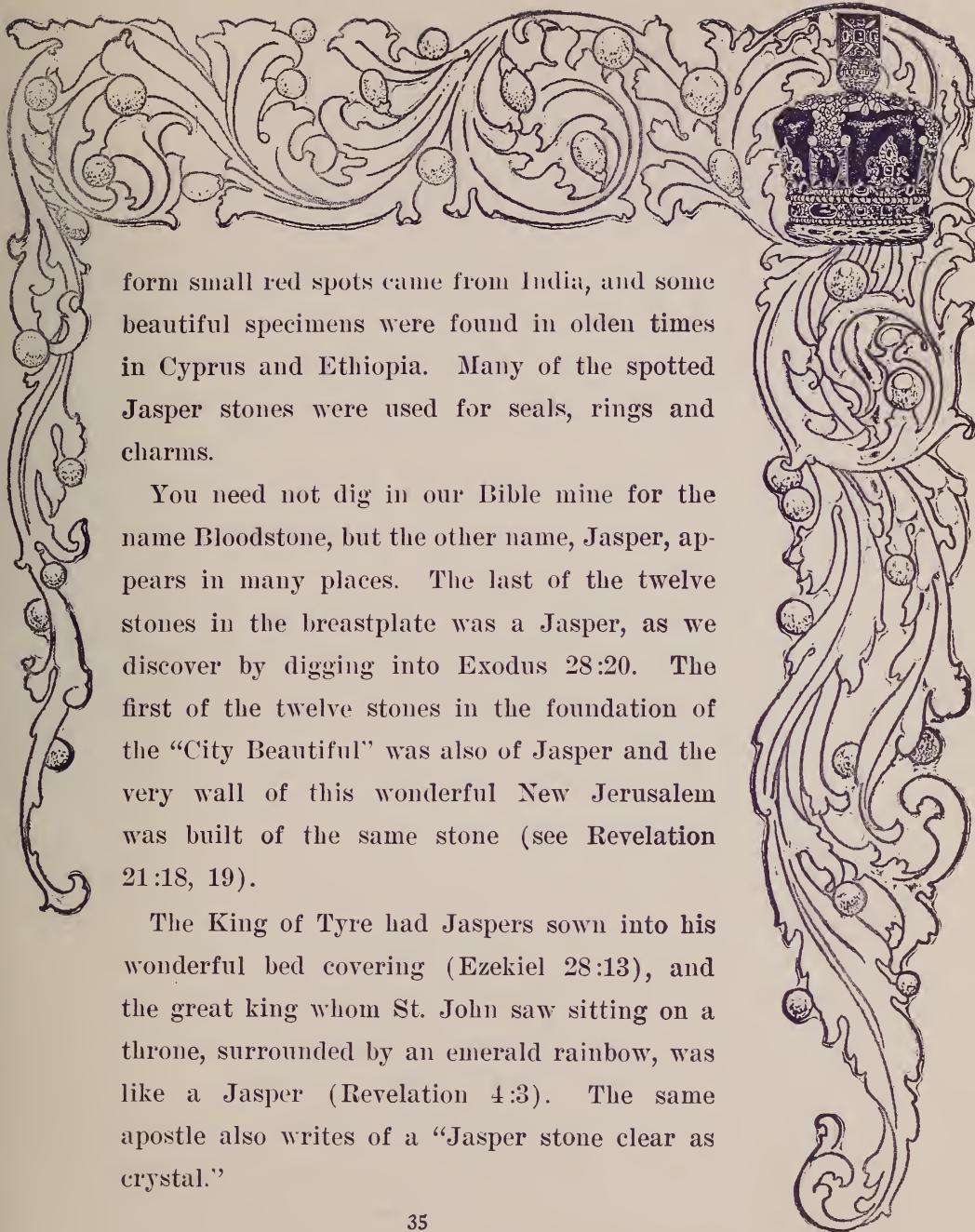
In the seventeenth century bleeding wounds were often touched with a Bloodstone in the belief that the stone would heal them.

The ancients also had a strange but interesting legend that the Bloodstone was formed at the crucifixion of Christ by drops of blood falling from His side on a piece of green Jasper.

Though this legend is not true, it is beautiful to think our March stone may remind us of the precious blood of Christ that was shed for us and for the whole world.

Many fine carvings of the head of Christ have been made on Bloodstones, one of the best of these is in the Field Columbian Museum at Chicago. Other sacred pictures have been engraved on Bloodstones in the early days of the Christian Church, and the red spots have sometimes been arranged in the carvings to look like drops of blood.

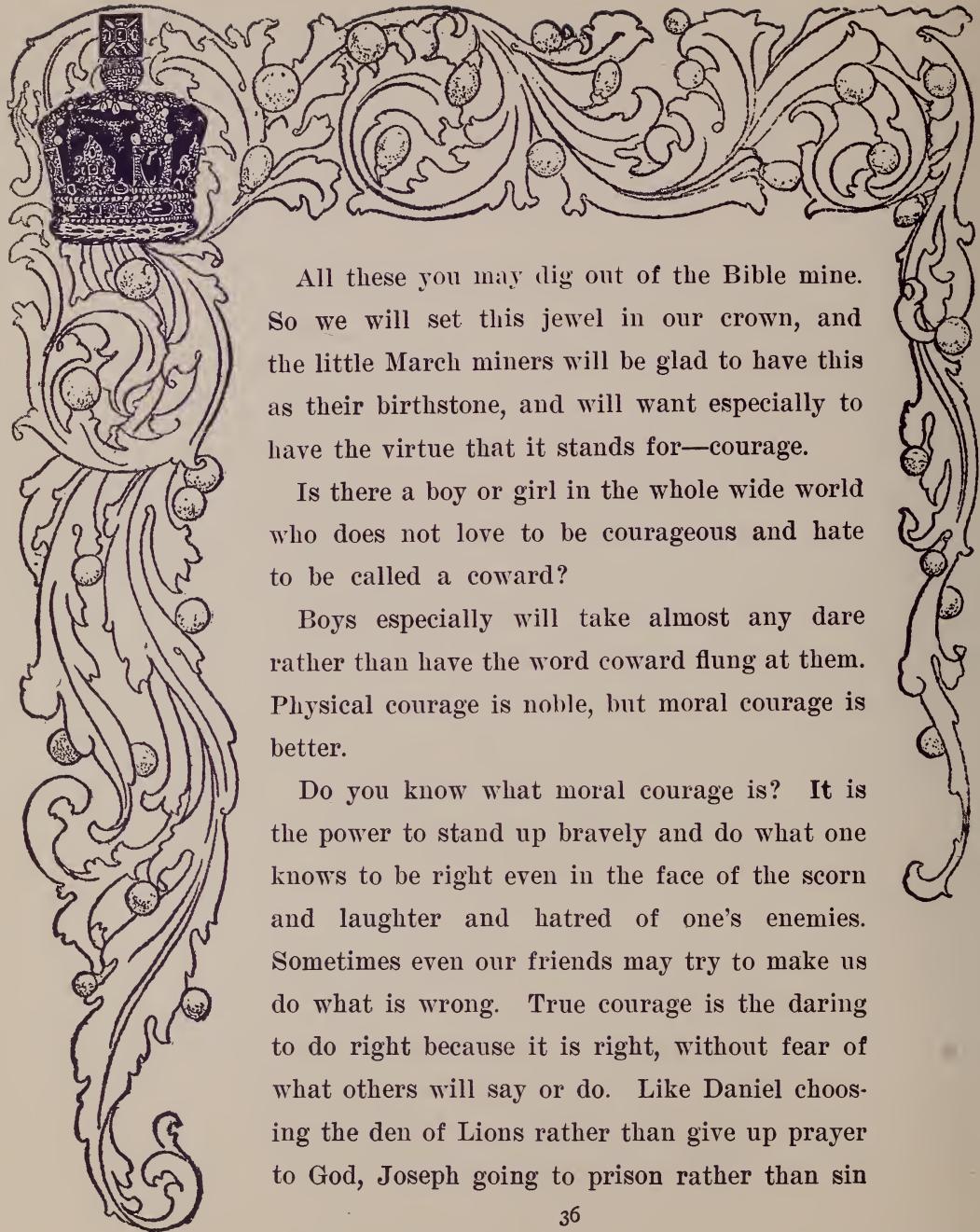
The richest dark green Bloodstone, with uni-



form small red spots came from India, and some beautiful specimens were found in olden times in Cyprus and Ethiopia. Many of the spotted Jasper stones were used for seals, rings and charms.

You need not dig in our Bible mine for the name Bloodstone, but the other name, Jasper, appears in many places. The last of the twelve stones in the breastplate was a Jasper, as we discover by digging into Exodus 28:20. The first of the twelve stones in the foundation of the "City Beautiful" was also of Jasper and the very wall of this wonderful New Jerusalem was built of the same stone (see Revelation 21:18, 19).

The King of Tyre had Jaspers sown into his wonderful bed covering (Ezekiel 28:13), and the great king whom St. John saw sitting on a throne, surrounded by an emerald rainbow, was like a Jasper (Revelation 4:3). The same apostle also writes of a "Jasper stone clear as crystal."

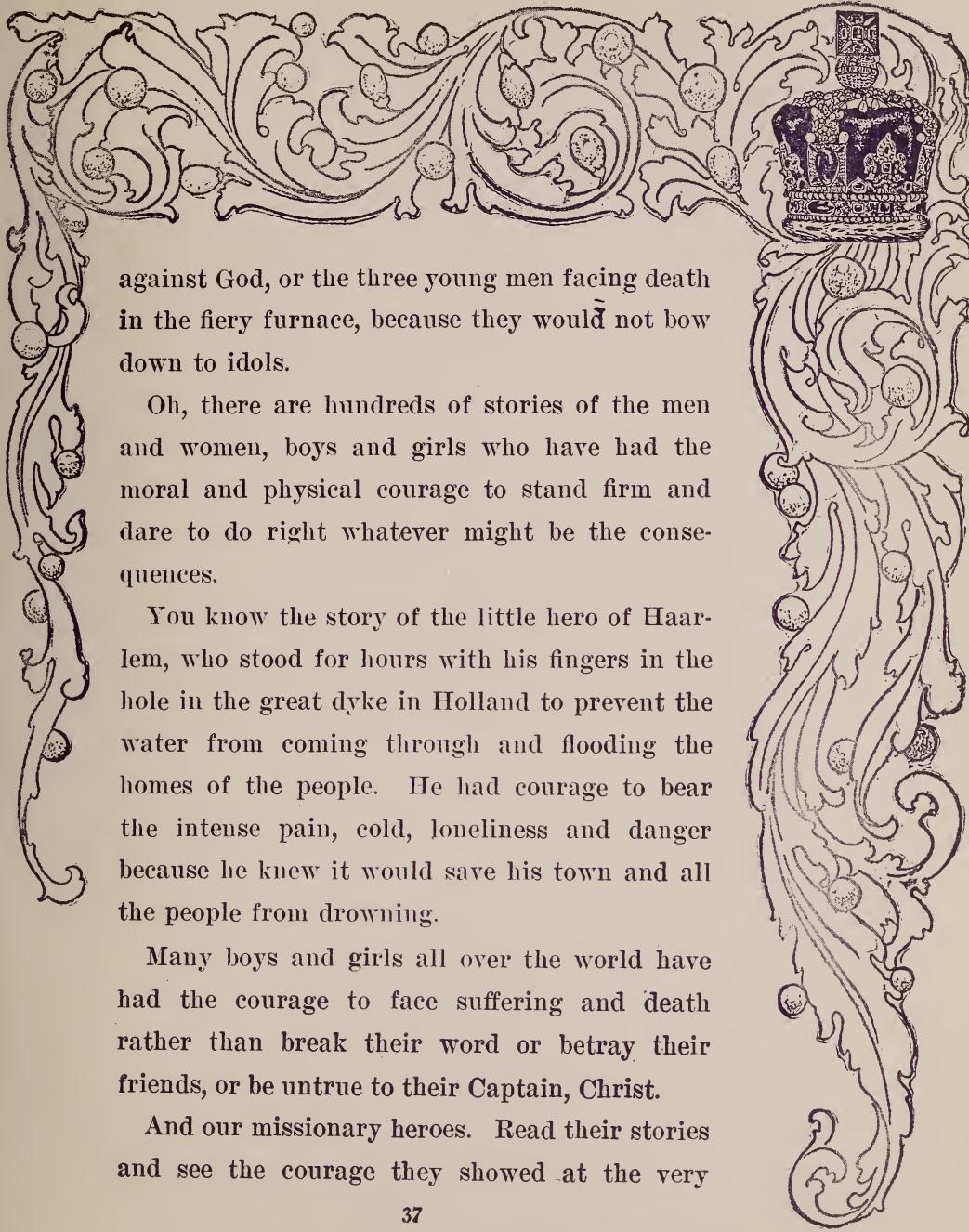


All these you may dig out of the Bible mine.
So we will set this jewel in our crown, and
the little March miners will be glad to have this
as their birthstone, and will want especially to
have the virtue that it stands for—courage.

Is there a boy or girl in the whole wide world
who does not love to be courageous and hate
to be called a coward?

Boys especially will take almost any dare
rather than have the word coward flung at them.
Physical courage is noble, but moral courage is
better.

Do you know what moral courage is? It is
the power to stand up bravely and do what one
knows to be right even in the face of the scorn
and laughter and hatred of one's enemies.
Sometimes even our friends may try to make us
do what is wrong. True courage is the daring
to do right because it is right, without fear of
what others will say or do. Like Daniel choos-
ing the den of Lions rather than give up prayer
to God, Joseph going to prison rather than sin



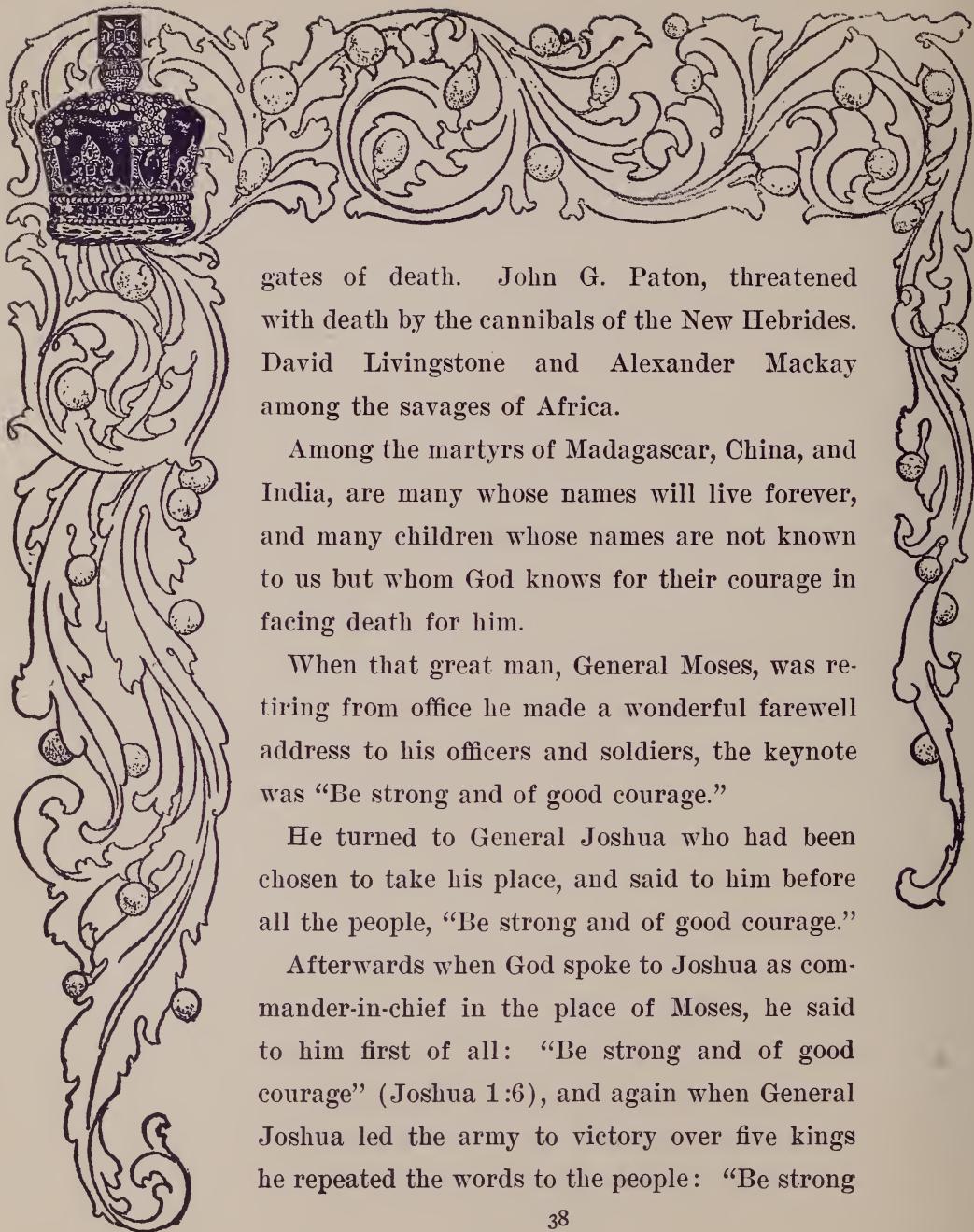
against God, or the three young men facing death in the fiery furnace, because they would not bow down to idols.

Oh, there are hundreds of stories of the men and women, boys and girls who have had the moral and physical courage to stand firm and dare to do right whatever might be the consequences.

You know the story of the little hero of Haarlem, who stood for hours with his fingers in the hole in the great dyke in Holland to prevent the water from coming through and flooding the homes of the people. He had courage to bear the intense pain, cold, loneliness and danger because he knew it would save his town and all the people from drowning.

Many boys and girls all over the world have had the courage to face suffering and death rather than break their word or betray their friends, or be untrue to their Captain, Christ.

And our missionary heroes. Read their stories and see the courage they showed at the very



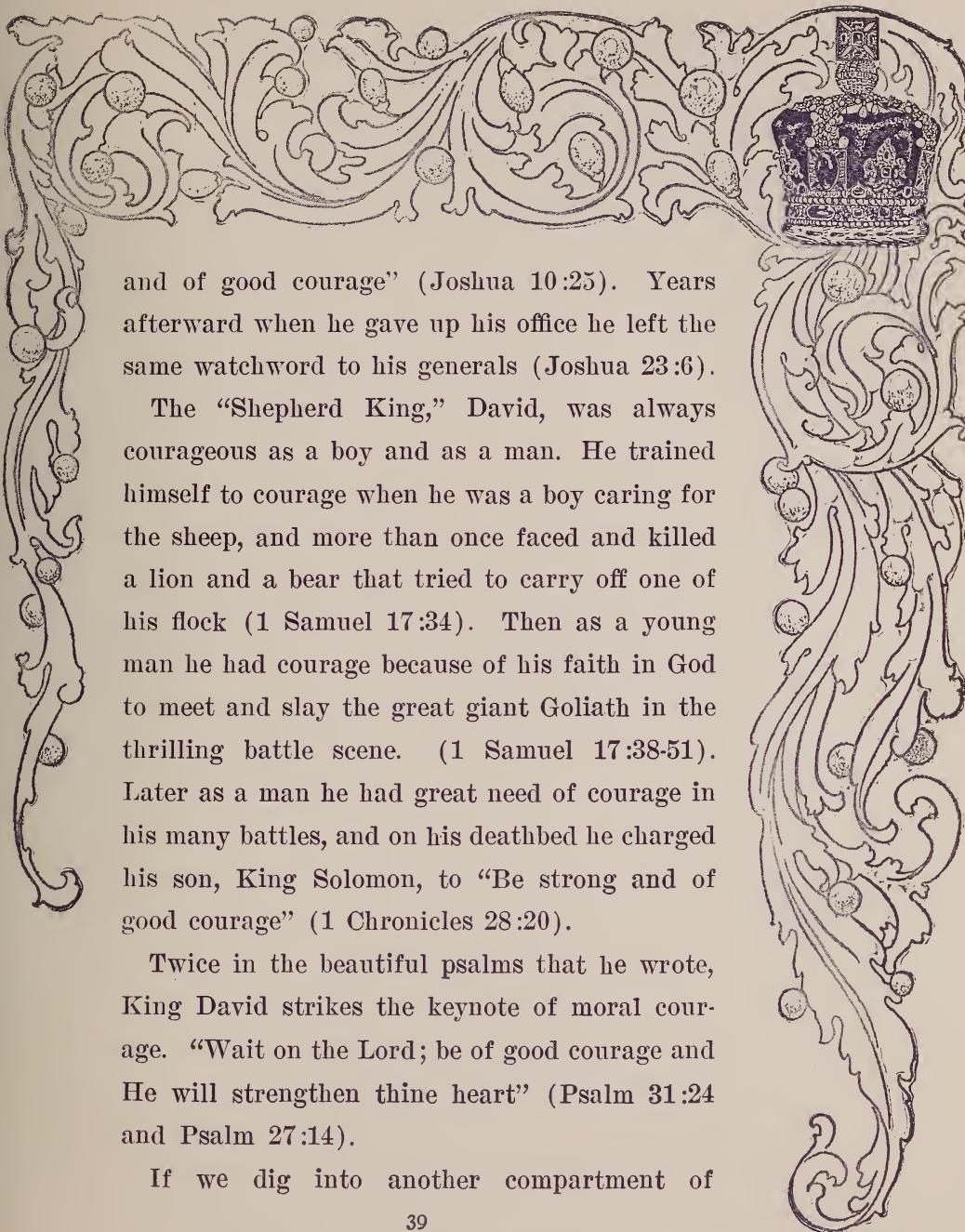
gates of death. John G. Paton, threatened with death by the cannibals of the New Hebrides. David Livingstone and Alexander Mackay among the savages of Africa.

Among the martyrs of Madagascar, China, and India, are many whose names will live forever, and many children whose names are not known to us but whom God knows for their courage in facing death for him.

When that great man, General Moses, was retiring from office he made a wonderful farewell address to his officers and soldiers, the keynote was "Be strong and of good courage."

He turned to General Joshua who had been chosen to take his place, and said to him before all the people, "Be strong and of good courage."

Afterwards when God spoke to Joshua as commander-in-chief in the place of Moses, he said to him first of all: "Be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:6), and again when General Joshua led the army to victory over five kings he repeated the words to the people: "Be strong

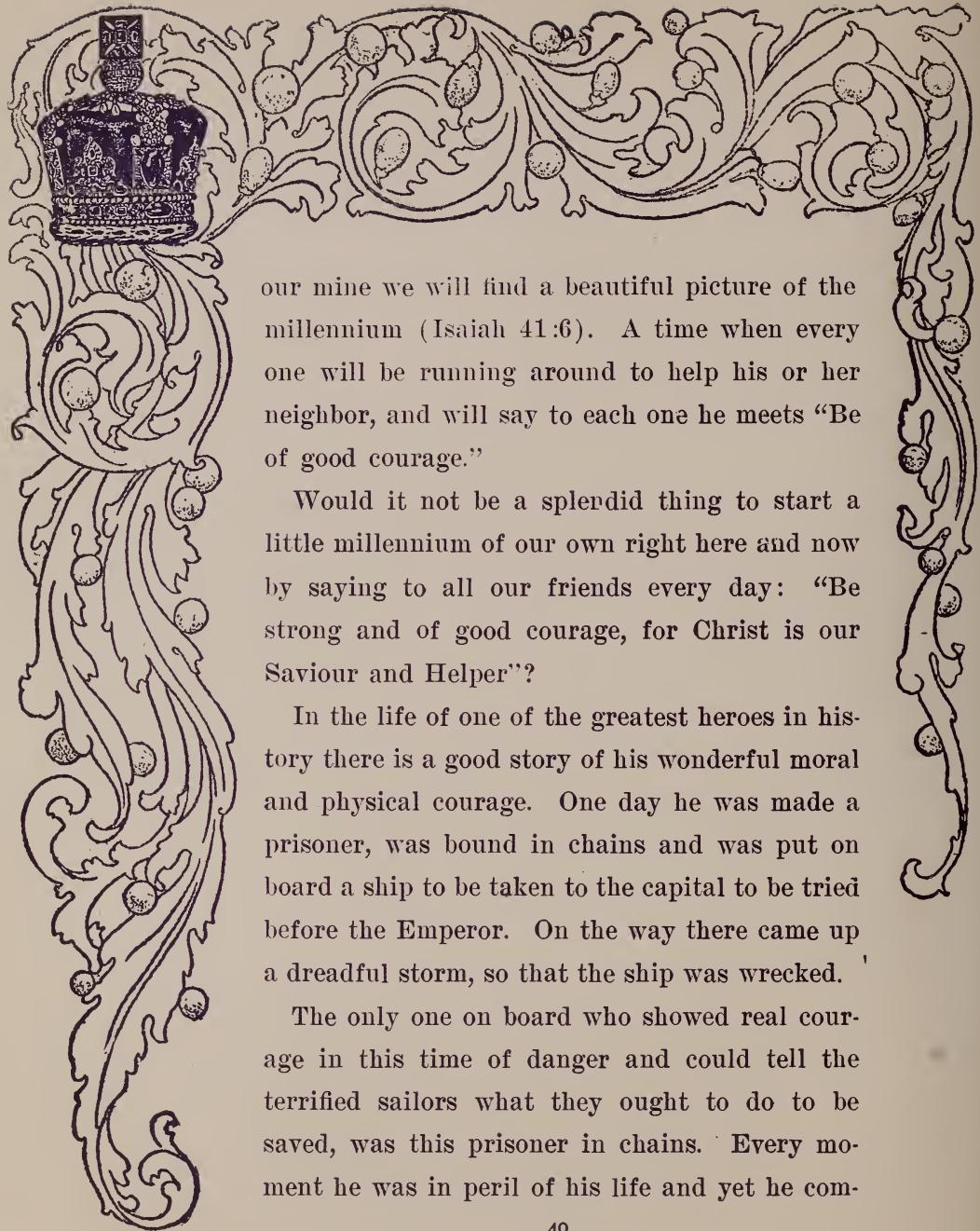


and of good courage" (Joshua 10:25). Years afterward when he gave up his office he left the same watchword to his generals (Joshua 23:6).

The "Shepherd King," David, was always courageous as a boy and as a man. He trained himself to courage when he was a boy caring for the sheep, and more than once faced and killed a lion and a bear that tried to carry off one of his flock (1 Samuel 17:34). Then as a young man he had courage because of his faith in God to meet and slay the great giant Goliath in the thrilling battle scene. (1 Samuel 17:38-51). Later as a man he had great need of courage in his many battles, and on his deathbed he charged his son, King Solomon, to "Be strong and of good courage" (1 Chronicles 28:20).

Twice in the beautiful psalms that he wrote, King David strikes the keynote of moral courage. "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage and He will strengthen thine heart" (Psalm 31:24 and Psalm 27:14).

If we dig into another compartment of

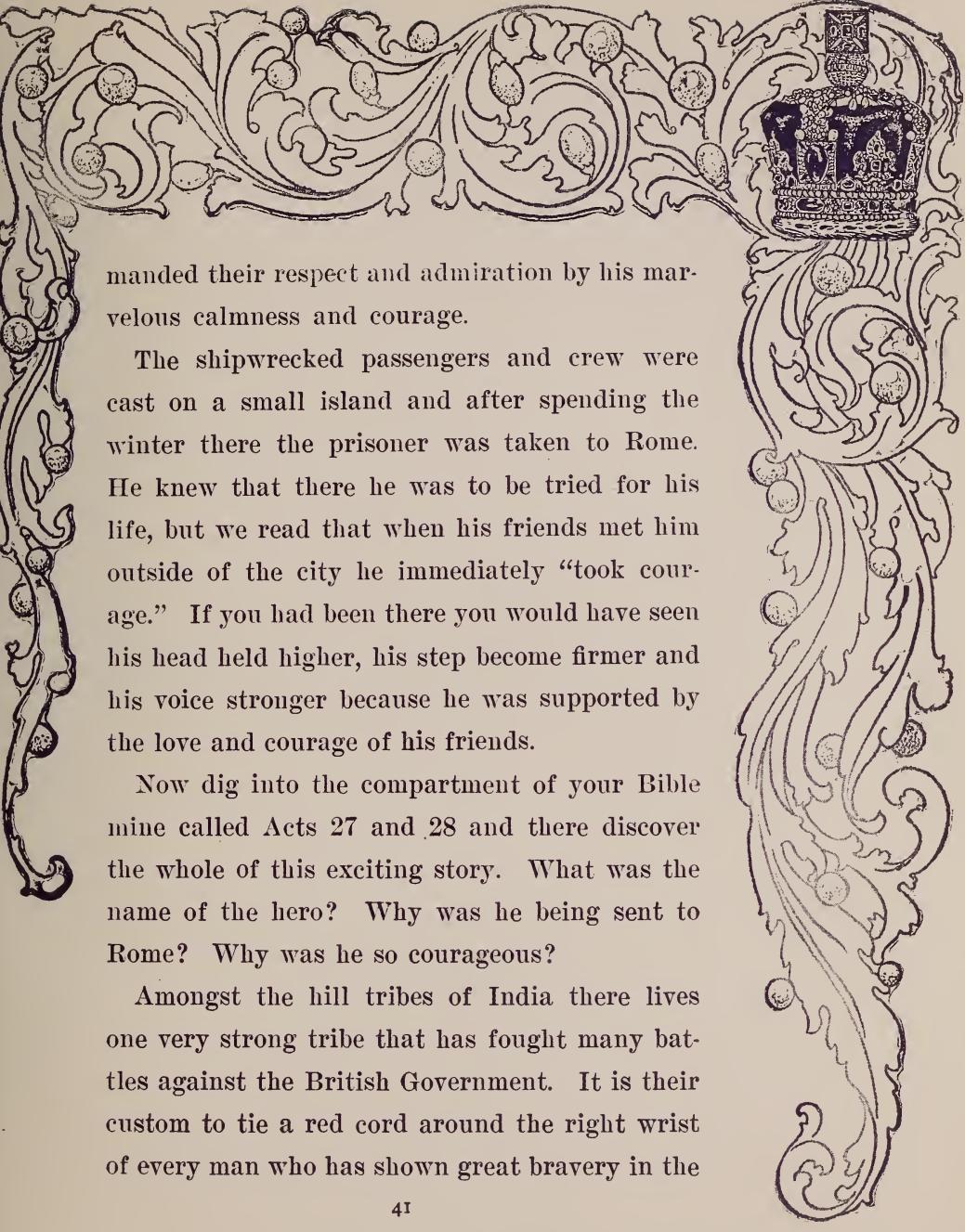


our mine we will find a beautiful picture of the millennium (Isaiah 41:6). A time when every one will be running around to help his or her neighbor, and will say to each one he meets "Be of good courage."

Would it not be a splendid thing to start a little millennium of our own right here and now by saying to all our friends every day: "Be strong and of good courage, for Christ is our Saviour and Helper"?

In the life of one of the greatest heroes in history there is a good story of his wonderful moral and physical courage. One day he was made a prisoner, was bound in chains and was put on board a ship to be taken to the capital to be tried before the Emperor. On the way there came up a dreadful storm, so that the ship was wrecked.

The only one on board who showed real courage in this time of danger and could tell the terrified sailors what they ought to do to be saved, was this prisoner in chains. Every moment he was in peril of his life and yet he com-

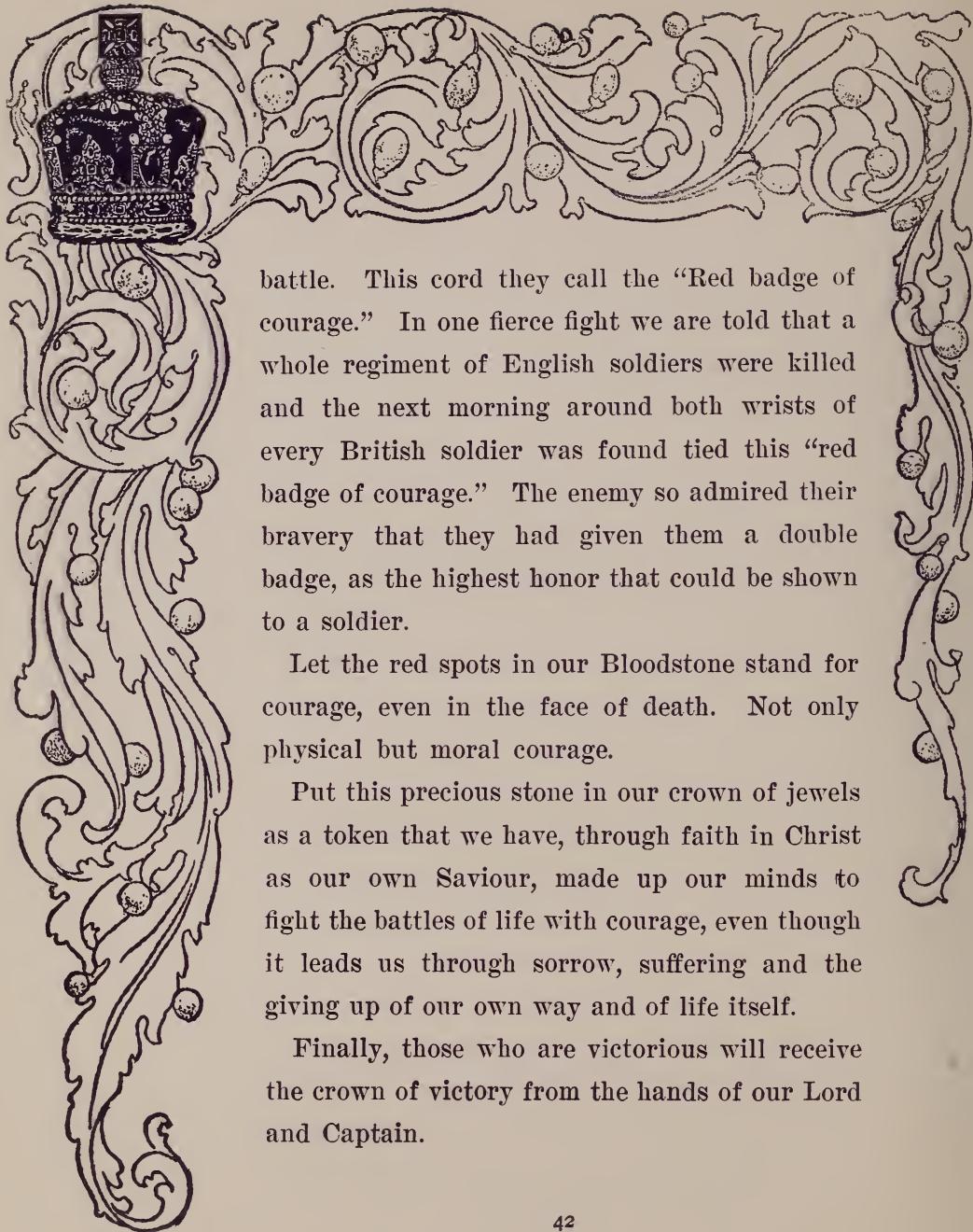


manded their respect and admiration by his marvelous calmness and courage.

The shipwrecked passengers and crew were cast on a small island and after spending the winter there the prisoner was taken to Rome. He knew that there he was to be tried for his life, but we read that when his friends met him outside of the city he immediately "took courage." If you had been there you would have seen his head held higher, his step become firmer and his voice stronger because he was supported by the love and courage of his friends.

Now dig into the compartment of your Bible mine called Acts 27 and 28 and there discover the whole of this exciting story. What was the name of the hero? Why was he being sent to Rome? Why was he so courageous?

Amongst the hill tribes of India there lives one very strong tribe that has fought many battles against the British Government. It is their custom to tie a red cord around the right wrist of every man who has shown great bravery in the

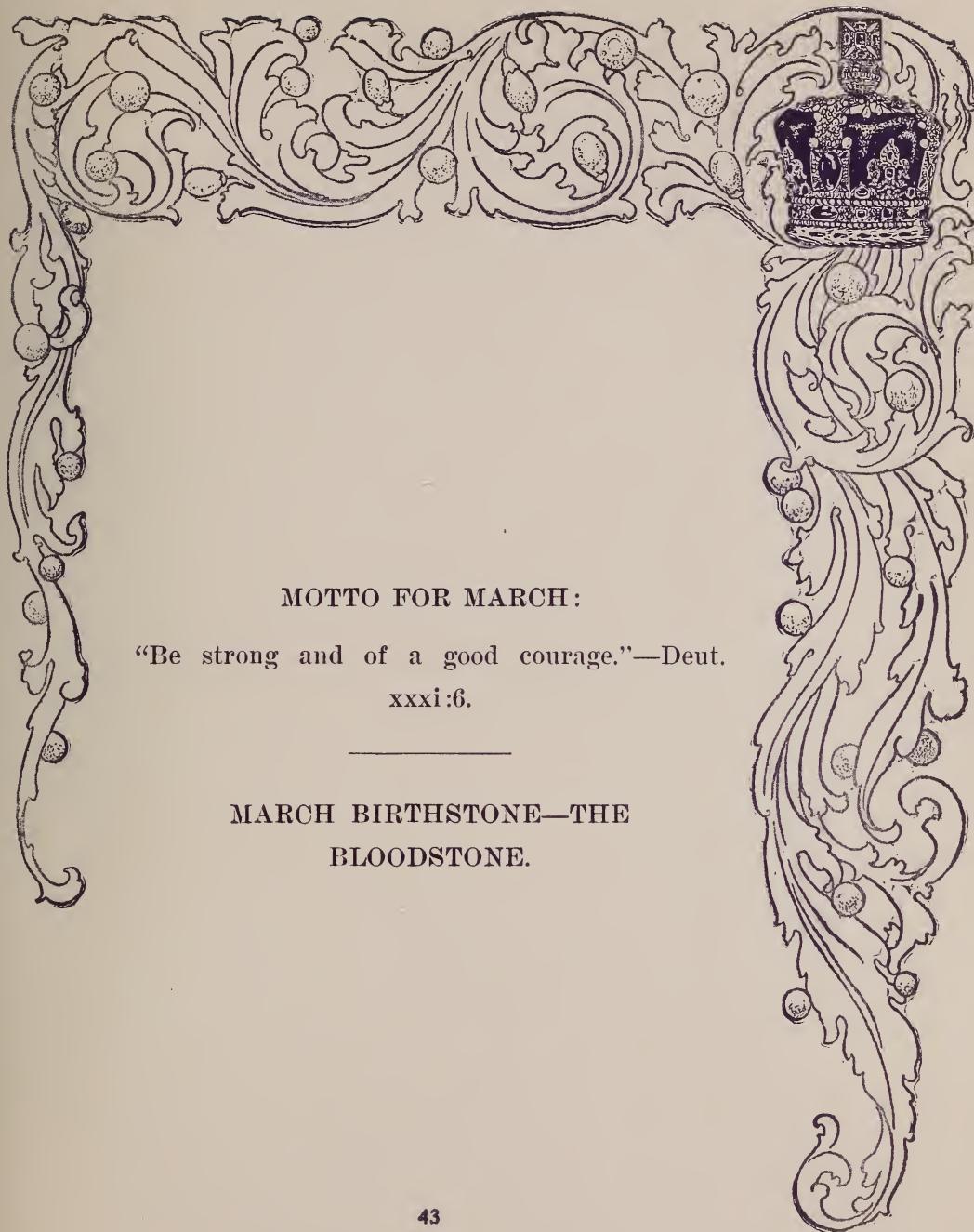


battle. This cord they call the "Red badge of courage." In one fierce fight we are told that a whole regiment of English soldiers were killed and the next morning around both wrists of every British soldier was found tied this "red badge of courage." The enemy so admired their bravery that they had given them a double badge, as the highest honor that could be shown to a soldier.

Let the red spots in our Bloodstone stand for courage, even in the face of death. Not only physical but moral courage.

Put this precious stone in our crown of jewels as a token that we have, through faith in Christ as our own Saviour, made up our minds to fight the battles of life with courage, even though it leads us through sorrow, suffering and the giving up of our own way and of life itself.

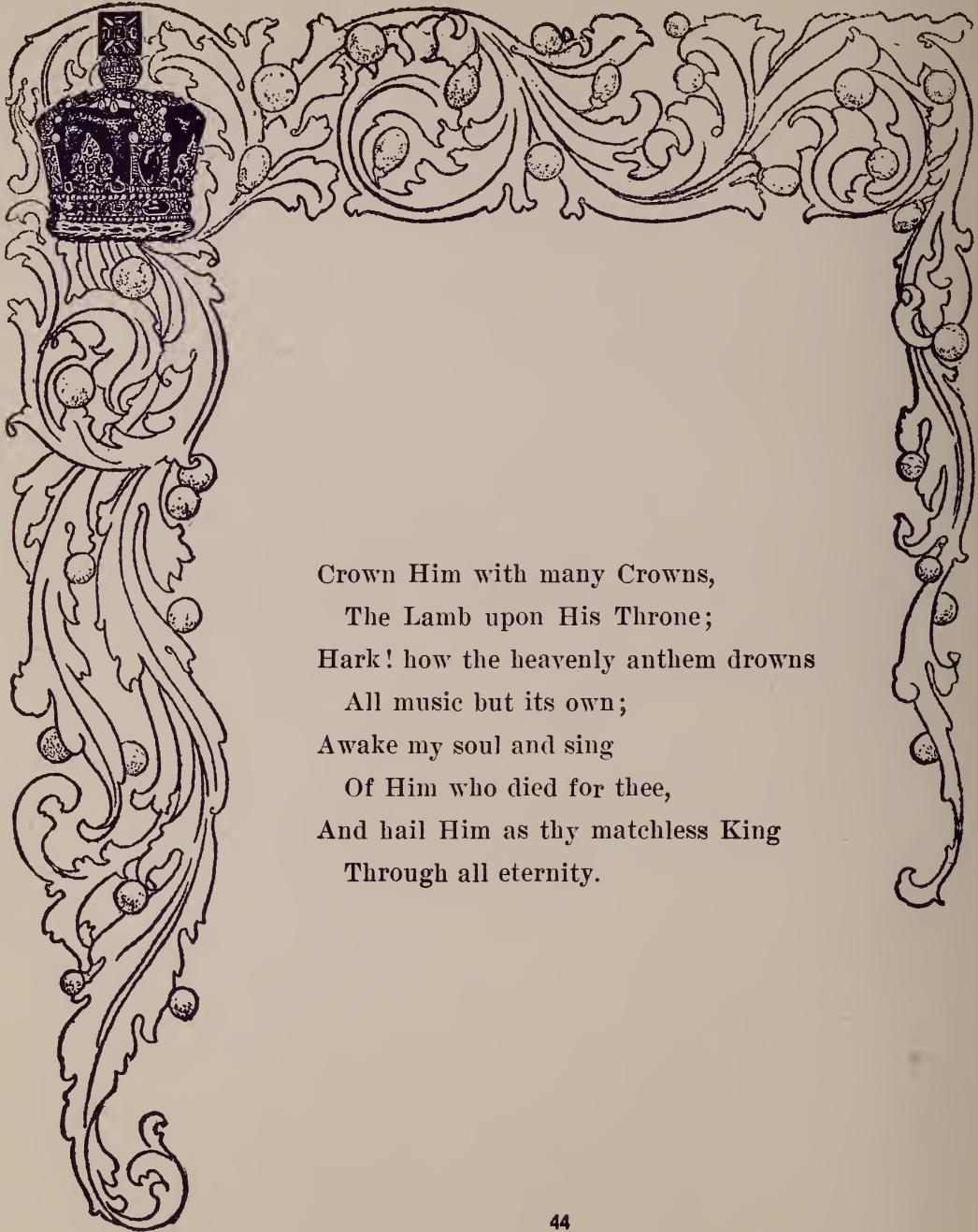
Finally, those who are victorious will receive the crown of victory from the hands of our Lord and Captain.



MOTTO FOR MARCH:

"Be strong and of a good courage."—Deut.
xxxii :6.

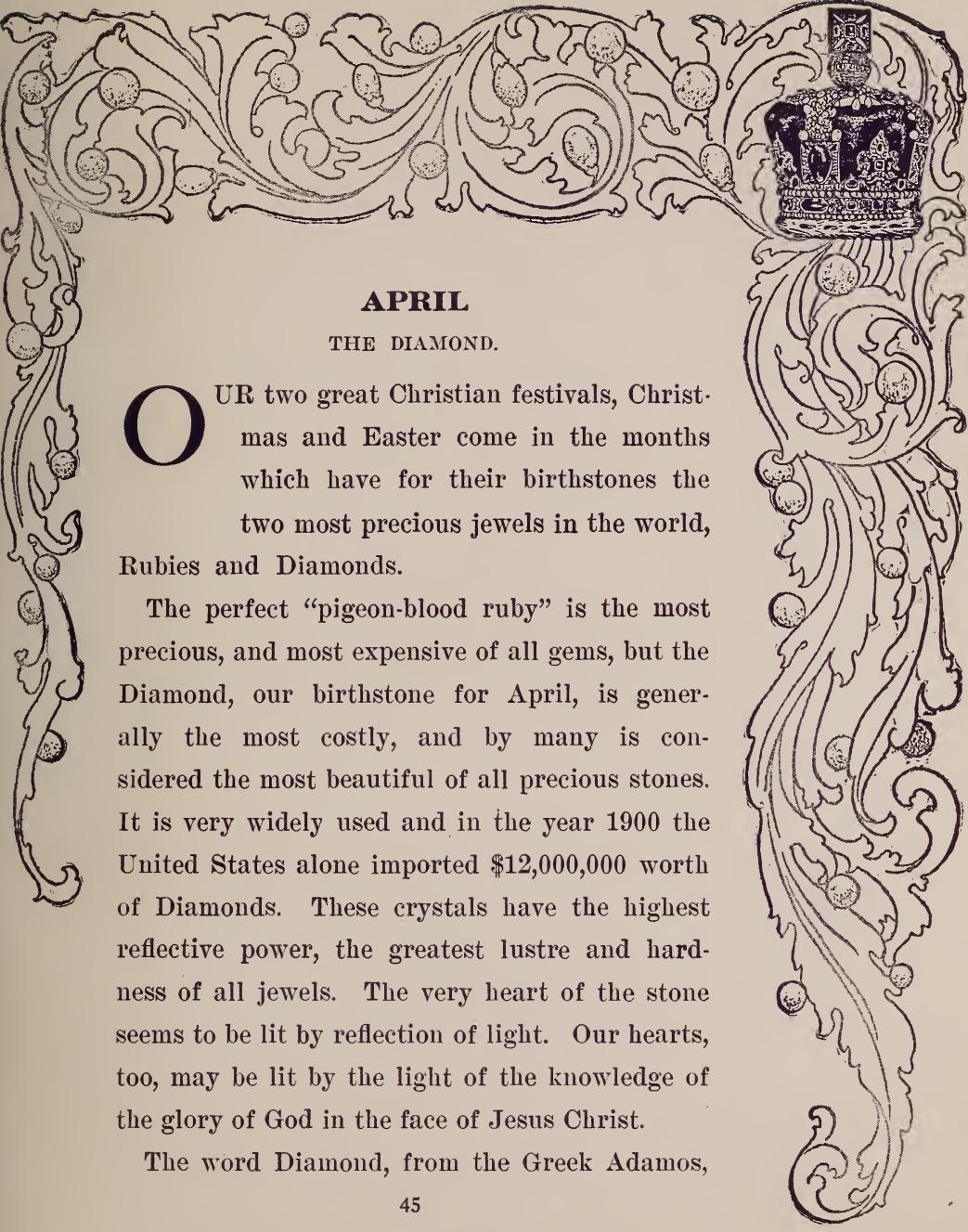
MARCH BIRTHSTONE—THE
BLOODSTONE.



Crown Him with many Crowns,
The Lamb upon His Throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own;
Awake my soul and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.







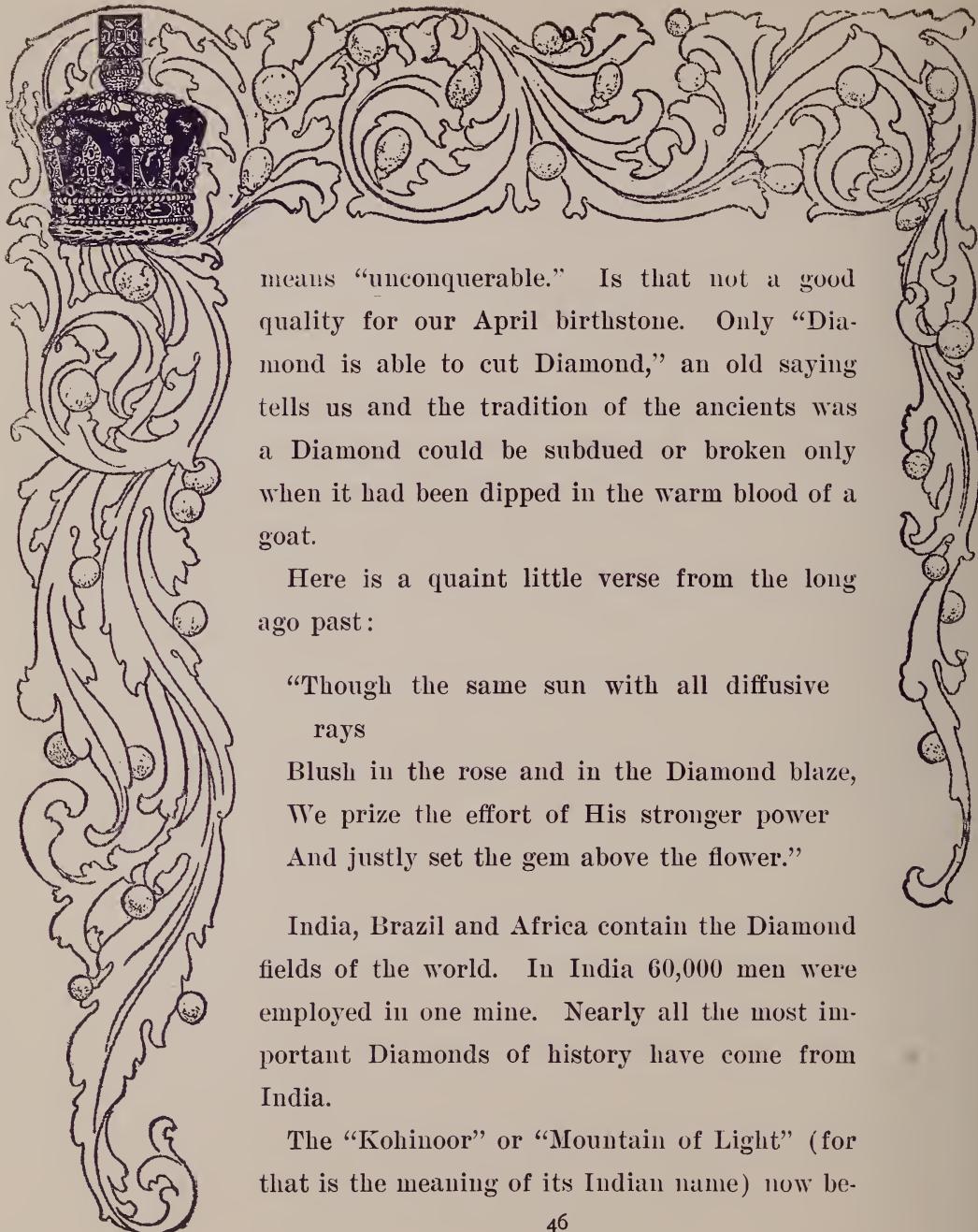
APRIL

THE DIAMOND.

OUR two great Christian festivals, Christmas and Easter come in the months which have for their birthstones the two most precious jewels in the world, Rubies and Diamonds.

The perfect "pigeon-blood ruby" is the most precious, and most expensive of all gems, but the Diamond, our birthstone for April, is generally the most costly, and by many is considered the most beautiful of all precious stones. It is very widely used and in the year 1900 the United States alone imported \$12,000,000 worth of Diamonds. These crystals have the highest reflective power, the greatest lustre and hardness of all jewels. The very heart of the stone seems to be lit by reflection of light. Our hearts, too, may be lit by the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The word Diamond, from the Greek Adamos,



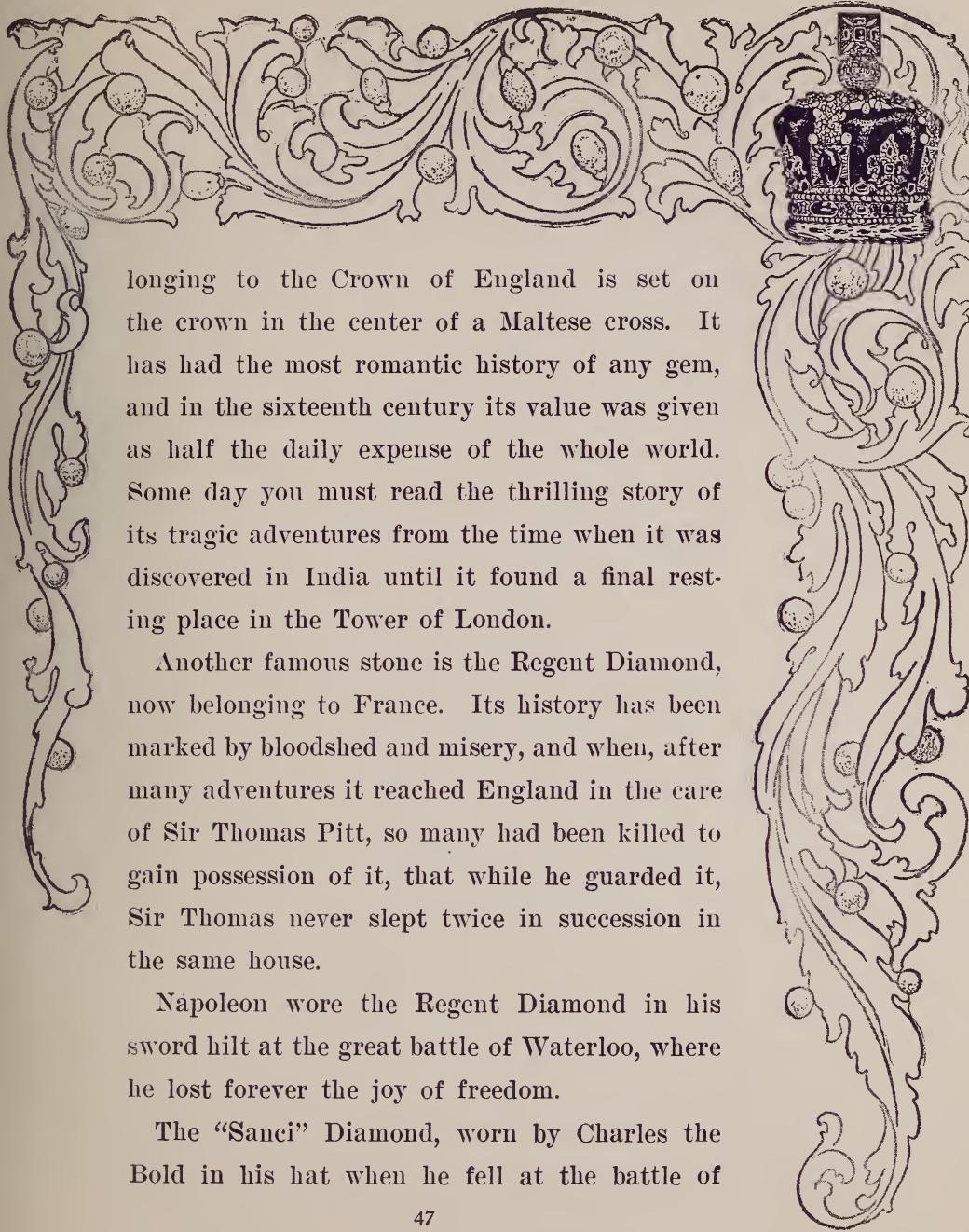
means "unconquerable." Is that not a good quality for our April birthstone. Only "Diamond is able to cut Diamond," an old saying tells us and the tradition of the ancients was a Diamond could be subdued or broken only when it had been dipped in the warm blood of a goat.

Here is a quaint little verse from the long ago past:

"Though the same sun with all diffusive rays
Blush in the rose and in the Diamond blaze,
We prize the effort of His stronger power
And justly set the gem above the flower."

India, Brazil and Africa contain the Diamond fields of the world. In India 60,000 men were employed in one mine. Nearly all the most important Diamonds of history have come from India.

The "Kohinoor" or "Mountain of Light" (for that is the meaning of its Indian name) now be-

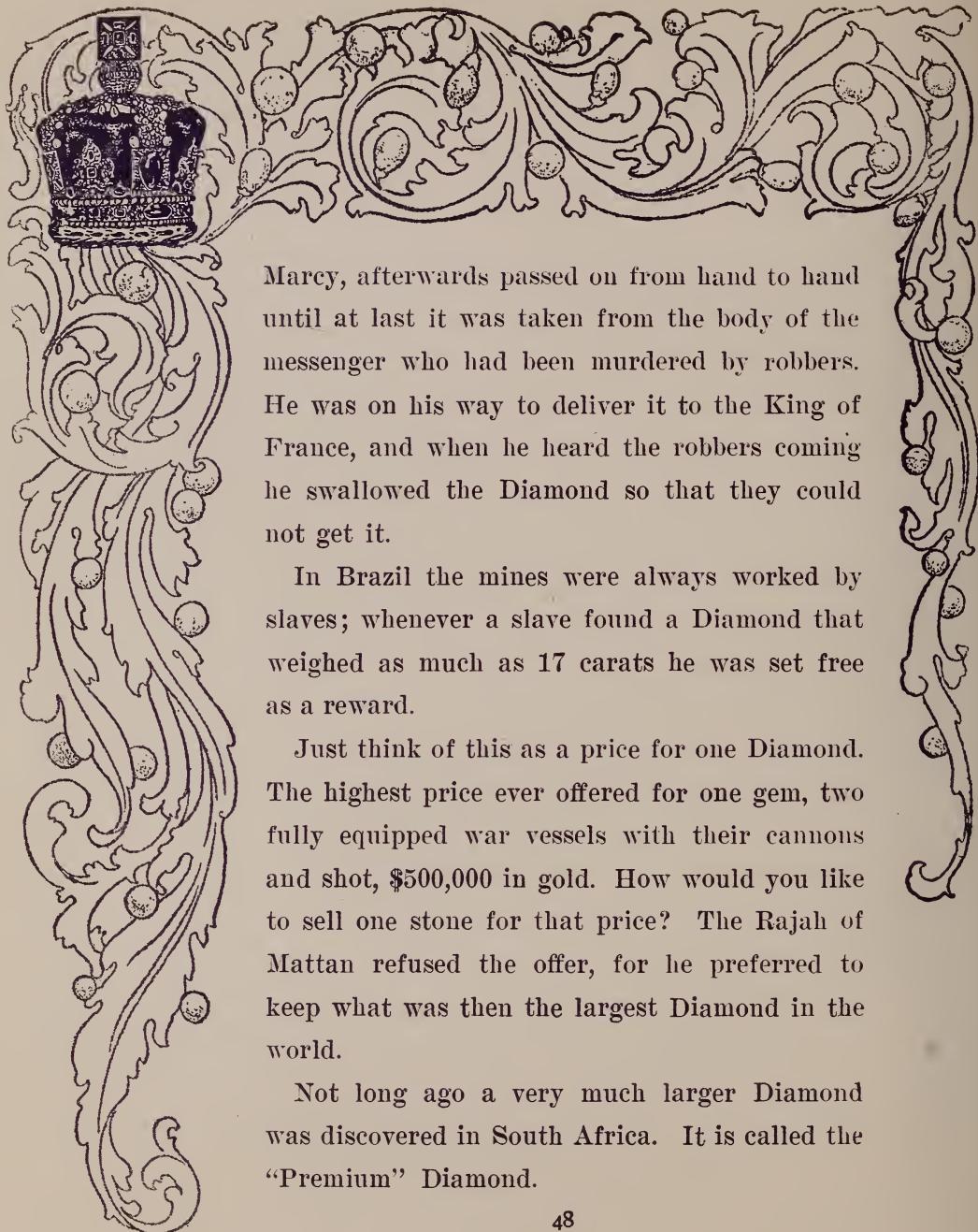


longing to the Crown of England is set on the crown in the center of a Maltese cross. It has had the most romantic history of any gem, and in the sixteenth century its value was given as half the daily expense of the whole world. Some day you must read the thrilling story of its tragic adventures from the time when it was discovered in India until it found a final resting place in the Tower of London.

Another famous stone is the Regent Diamond, now belonging to France. Its history has been marked by bloodshed and misery, and when, after many adventures it reached England in the care of Sir Thomas Pitt, so many had been killed to gain possession of it, that while he guarded it, Sir Thomas never slept twice in succession in the same house.

Napoleon wore the Regent Diamond in his sword hilt at the great battle of Waterloo, where he lost forever the joy of freedom.

The "Sanci" Diamond, worn by Charles the Bold in his hat when he fell at the battle of

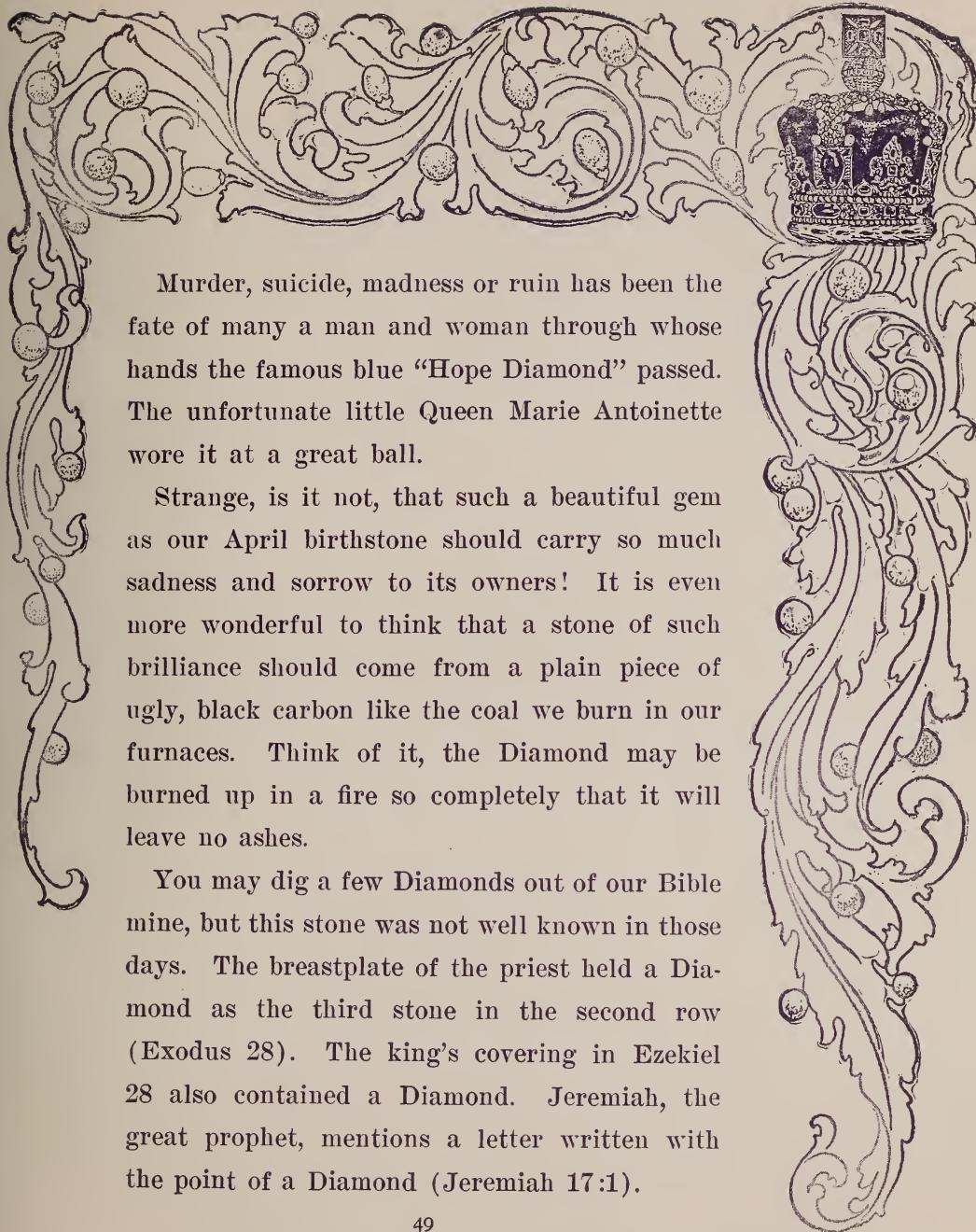


Marcy, afterwards passed on from hand to hand until at last it was taken from the body of the messenger who had been murdered by robbers. He was on his way to deliver it to the King of France, and when he heard the robbers coming he swallowed the Diamond so that they could not get it.

In Brazil the mines were always worked by slaves; whenever a slave found a Diamond that weighed as much as 17 carats he was set free as a reward.

Just think of this as a price for one Diamond. The highest price ever offered for one gem, two fully equipped war vessels with their cannons and shot, \$500,000 in gold. How would you like to sell one stone for that price? The Rajah of Mattan refused the offer, for he preferred to keep what was then the largest Diamond in the world.

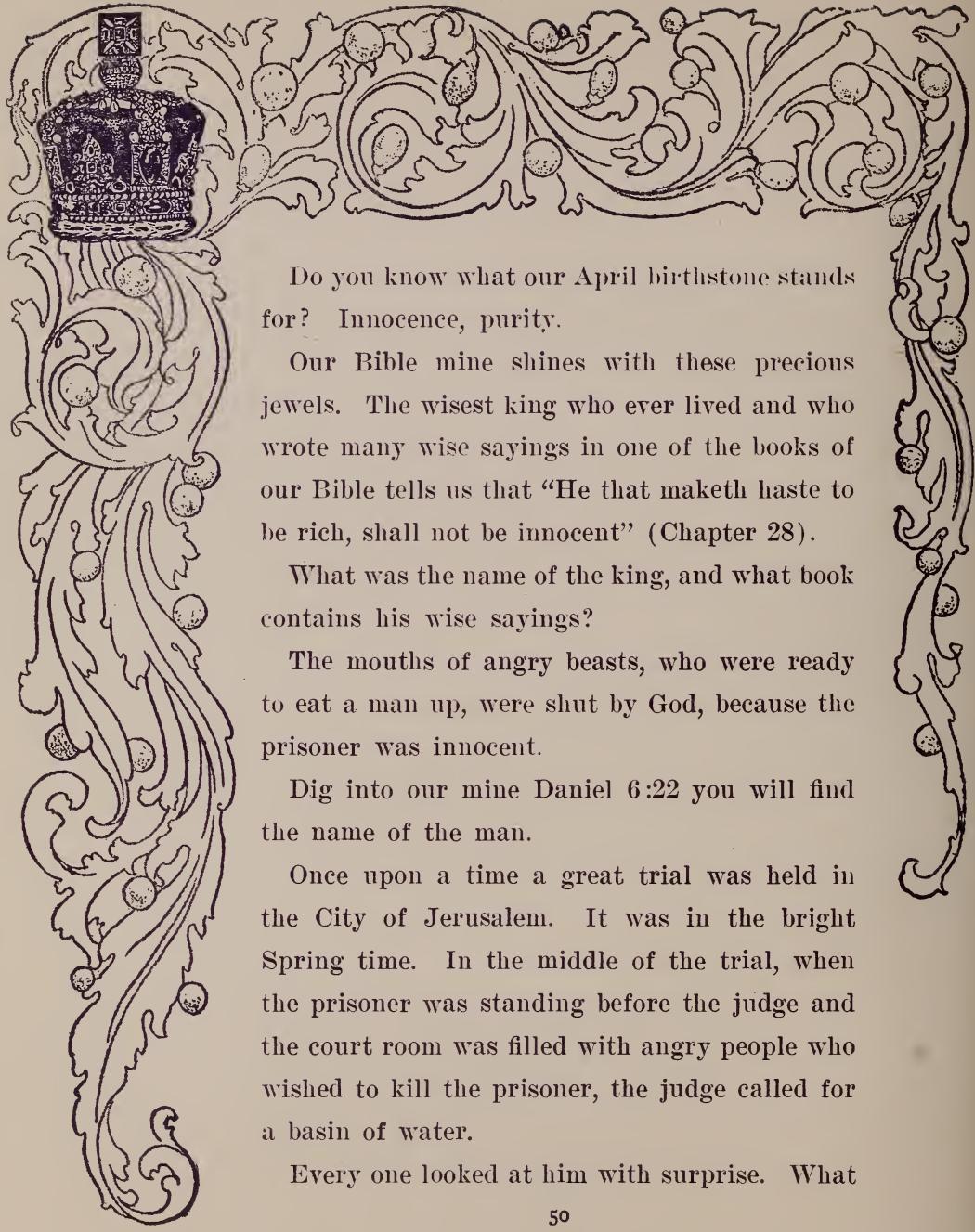
Not long ago a very much larger Diamond was discovered in South Africa. It is called the "Premium" Diamond.



Murder, suicide, madness or ruin has been the fate of many a man and woman through whose hands the famous blue "Hope Diamond" passed. The unfortunate little Queen Marie Antoinette wore it at a great ball.

Strange, is it not, that such a beautiful gem as our April birthstone should carry so much sadness and sorrow to its owners! It is even more wonderful to think that a stone of such brilliance should come from a plain piece of ugly, black carbon like the coal we burn in our furnaces. Think of it, the Diamond may be burned up in a fire so completely that it will leave no ashes.

You may dig a few Diamonds out of our Bible mine, but this stone was not well known in those days. The breastplate of the priest held a Diamond as the third stone in the second row (Exodus 28). The king's covering in Ezekiel 28 also contained a Diamond. Jeremiah, the great prophet, mentions a letter written with the point of a Diamond (Jeremiah 17:1).



Do you know what our April birthstone stands for? Innocence, purity.

Our Bible mine shines with these precious jewels. The wisest king who ever lived and who wrote many wise sayings in one of the books of our Bible tells us that "He that maketh haste to be rich, shall not be innocent" (Chapter 28).

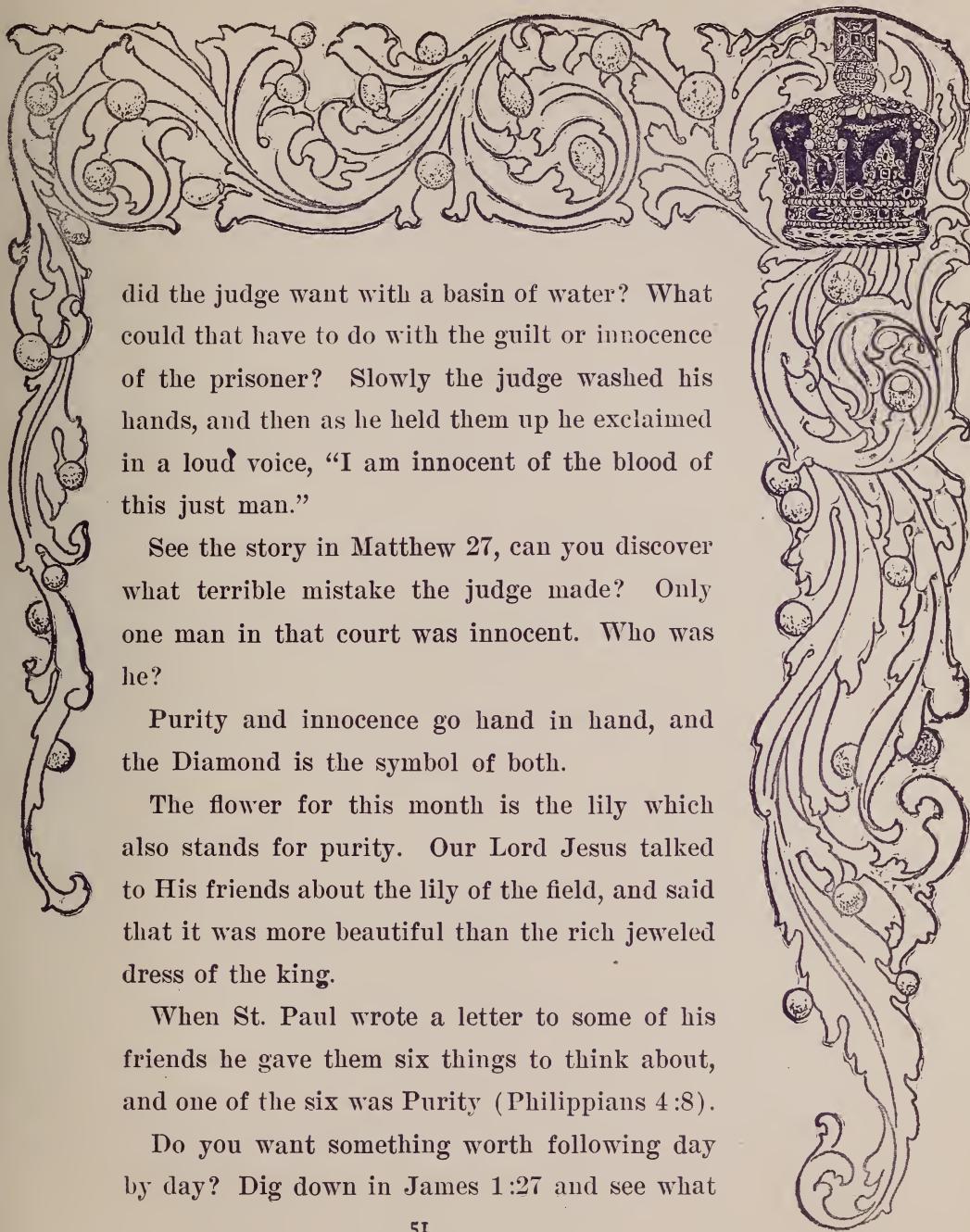
What was the name of the king, and what book contains his wise sayings?

The mouths of angry beasts, who were ready to eat a man up, were shut by God, because the prisoner was innocent.

Dig into our mine Daniel 6:22 you will find the name of the man.

Once upon a time a great trial was held in the City of Jerusalem. It was in the bright Spring time. In the middle of the trial, when the prisoner was standing before the judge and the court room was filled with angry people who wished to kill the prisoner, the judge called for a basin of water.

Every one looked at him with surprise. What



did the judge want with a basin of water? What could that have to do with the guilt or innocence of the prisoner? Slowly the judge washed his hands, and then as he held them up he exclaimed in a loud voice, "I am innocent of the blood of this just man."

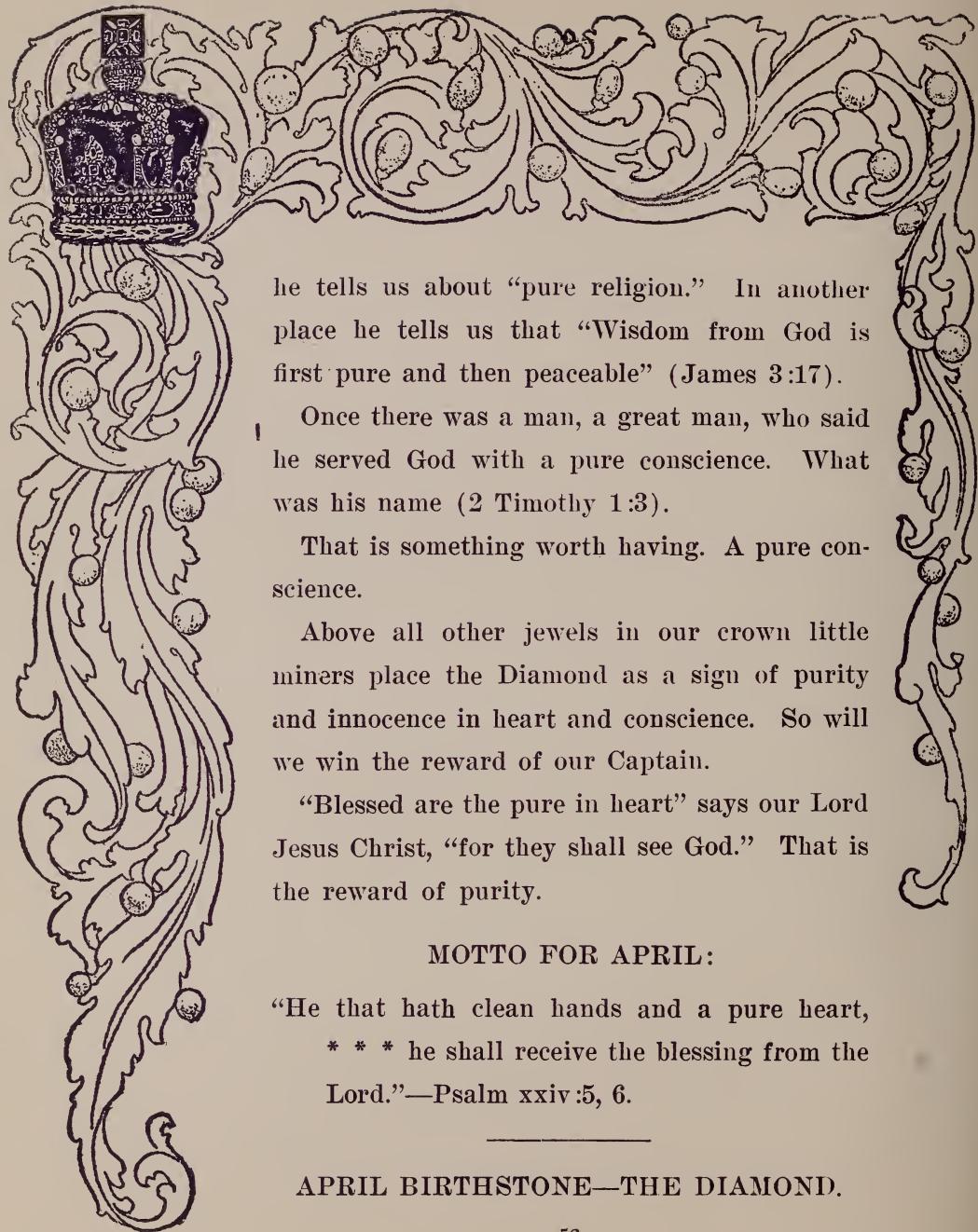
See the story in Matthew 27, can you discover what terrible mistake the judge made? Only one man in that court was innocent. Who was he?

Purity and innocence go hand in hand, and the Diamond is the symbol of both.

The flower for this month is the lily which also stands for purity. Our Lord Jesus talked to His friends about the lily of the field, and said that it was more beautiful than the rich jeweled dress of the king.

When St. Paul wrote a letter to some of his friends he gave them six things to think about, and one of the six was Purity (Philippians 4:8).

Do you want something worth following day by day? Dig down in James 1:27 and see what



he tells us about "pure religion." In another place he tells us that "Wisdom from God is first pure and then peaceable" (James 3:17).

Once there was a man, a great man, who said he served God with a pure conscience. What was his name (2 Timothy 1:3).

That is something worth having. A pure conscience.

Above all other jewels in our crown little miners place the Diamond as a sign of purity and innocence in heart and conscience. So will we win the reward of our Captain.

"Blessed are the pure in heart" says our Lord Jesus Christ, "for they shall see God." That is the reward of purity.

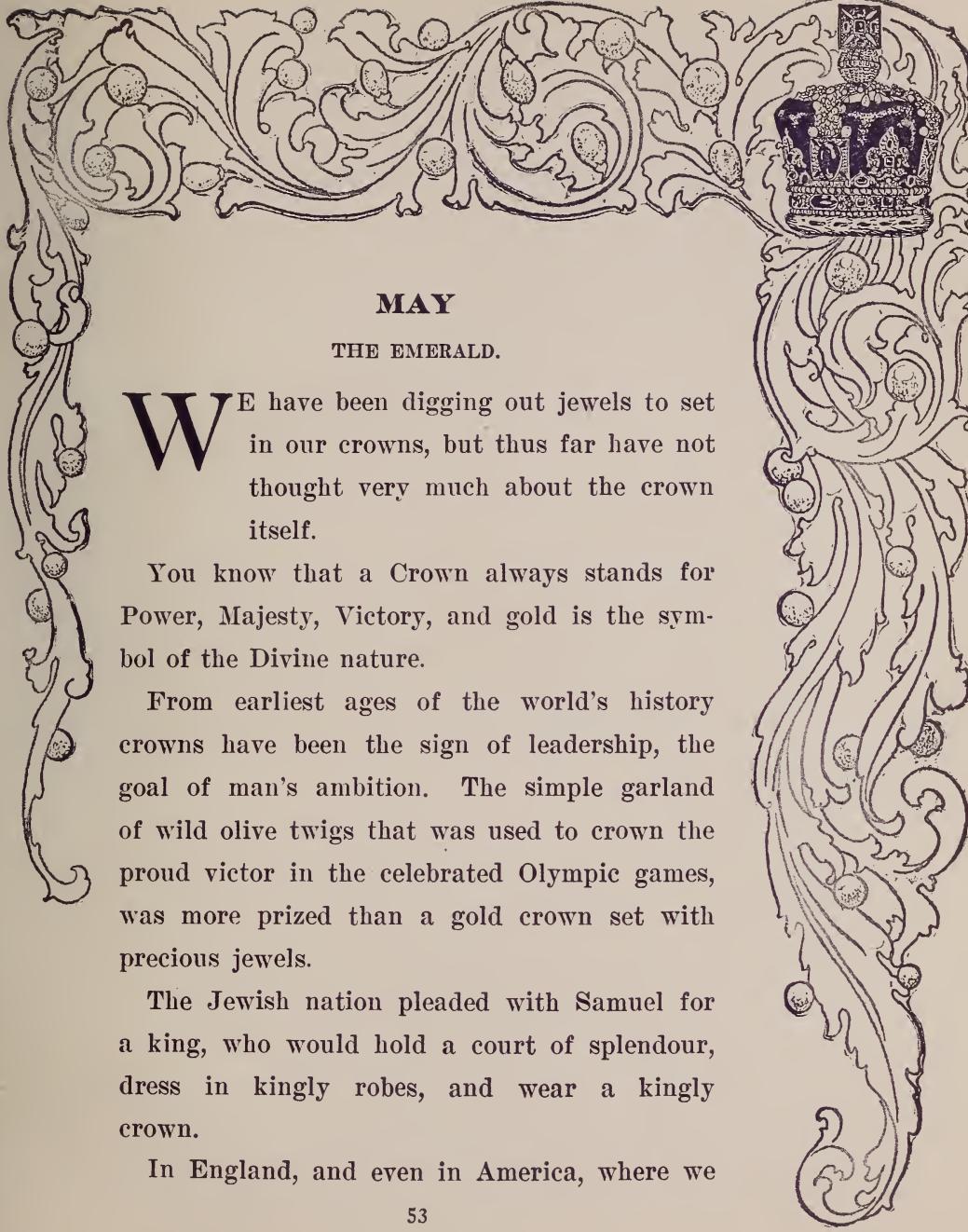
MOTTO FOR APRIL:

"He that hath clean hands and a pure heart,
* * * he shall receive the blessing from the
Lord."—Psalm xxiv:5, 6.

APRIL BIRTHSTONE—THE DIAMOND.







MAY

THE EMERALD.

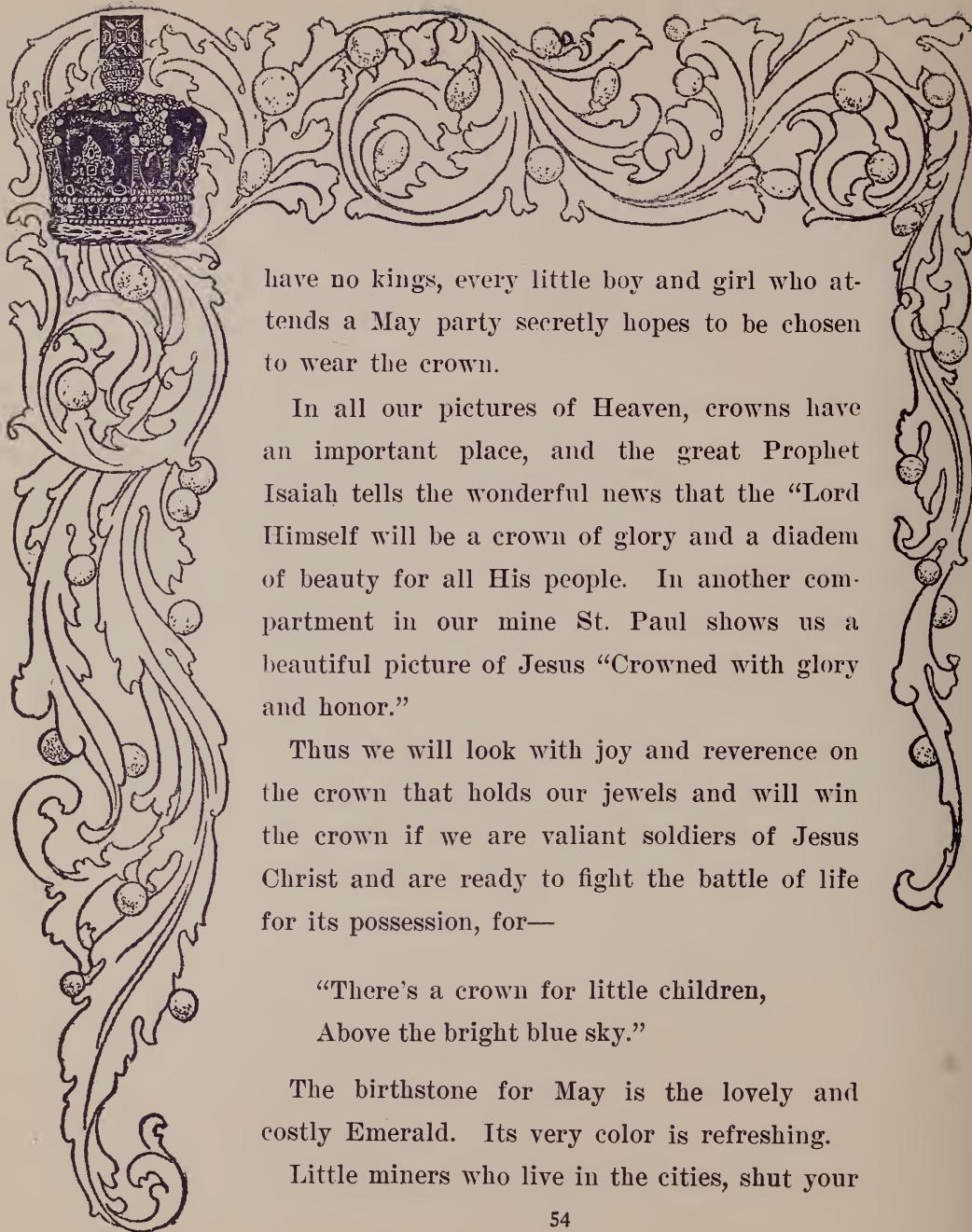
WE have been digging out jewels to set in our crowns, but thus far have not thought very much about the crown itself.

You know that a Crown always stands for Power, Majesty, Victory, and gold is the symbol of the Divine nature.

From earliest ages of the world's history crowns have been the sign of leadership, the goal of man's ambition. The simple garland of wild olive twigs that was used to crown the proud victor in the celebrated Olympic games, was more prized than a gold crown set with precious jewels.

The Jewish nation pleaded with Samuel for a king, who would hold a court of splendour, dress in kingly robes, and wear a kingly crown.

In England, and even in America, where we



have no kings, every little boy and girl who attends a May party secretly hopes to be chosen to wear the crown.

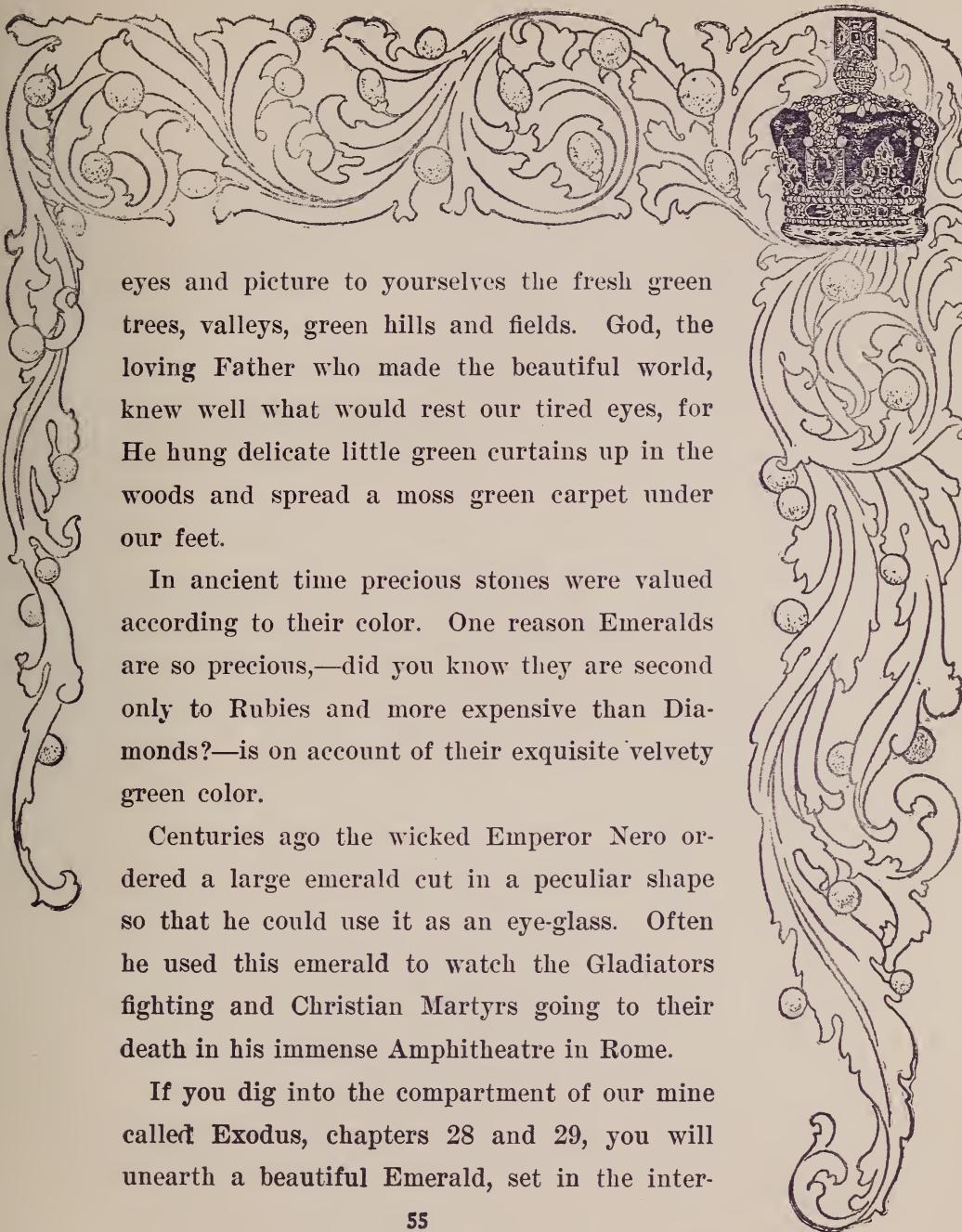
In all our pictures of Heaven, crowns have an important place, and the great Prophet Isaiah tells the wonderful news that the "Lord Himself will be a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty for all His people. In another compartment in our mine St. Paul shows us a beautiful picture of Jesus "Crowned with glory and honor."

Thus we will look with joy and reverence on the crown that holds our jewels and will win the crown if we are valiant soldiers of Jesus Christ and are ready to fight the battle of life for its possession, for—

"There's a crown for little children,
Above the bright blue sky."

The birthstone for May is the lovely and costly Emerald. Its very color is refreshing.

Little miners who live in the cities, shut your

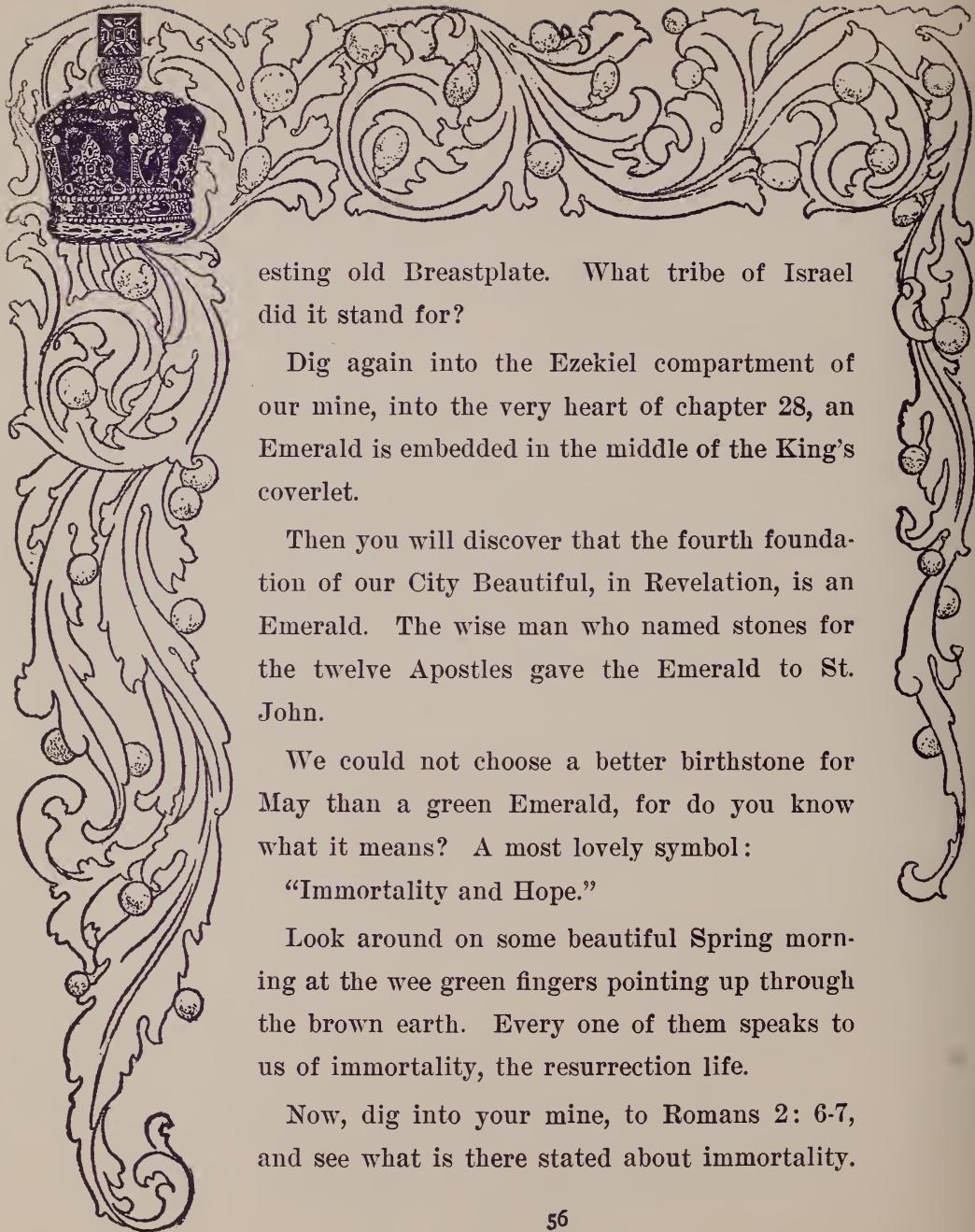


eyes and picture to yourselves the fresh green trees, valleys, green hills and fields. God, the loving Father who made the beautiful world, knew well what would rest our tired eyes, for He hung delicate little green curtains up in the woods and spread a moss green carpet under our feet.

In ancient time precious stones were valued according to their color. One reason Emeralds are so precious,—did you know they are second only to Rubies and more expensive than Diamonds?—is on account of their exquisite velvety green color.

Centuries ago the wicked Emperor Nero ordered a large emerald cut in a peculiar shape so that he could use it as an eye-glass. Often he used this emerald to watch the Gladiators fighting and Christian Martyrs going to their death in his immense Amphitheatre in Rome.

If you dig into the compartment of our mine called Exodus, chapters 28 and 29, you will unearth a beautiful Emerald, set in the inter-



esting old Breastplate. What tribe of Israel did it stand for?

Dig again into the Ezekiel compartment of our mine, into the very heart of chapter 28, an Emerald is embedded in the middle of the King's coverlet.

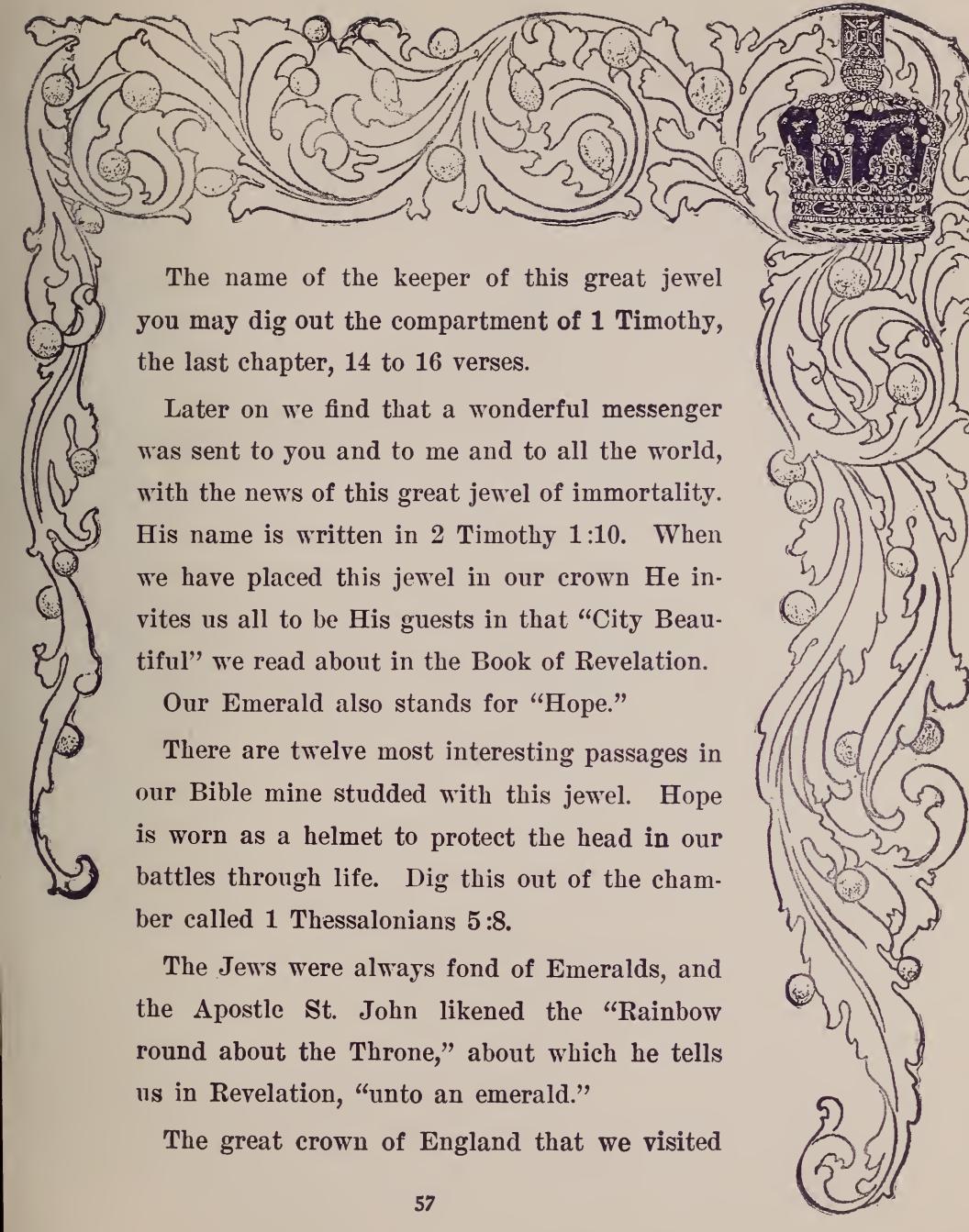
Then you will discover that the fourth foundation of our City Beautiful, in Revelation, is an Emerald. The wise man who named stones for the twelve Apostles gave the Emerald to St. John.

We could not choose a better birthstone for May than a green Emerald, for do you know what it means? A most lovely symbol:

“Immortality and Hope.”

Look around on some beautiful Spring morning at the wee green fingers pointing up through the brown earth. Every one of them speaks to us of immortality, the resurrection life.

Now, dig into your mine, to Romans 2: 6-7, and see what is there stated about immortality.



The name of the keeper of this great jewel
you may dig out the compartment of 1 Timothy,
the last chapter, 14 to 16 verses.

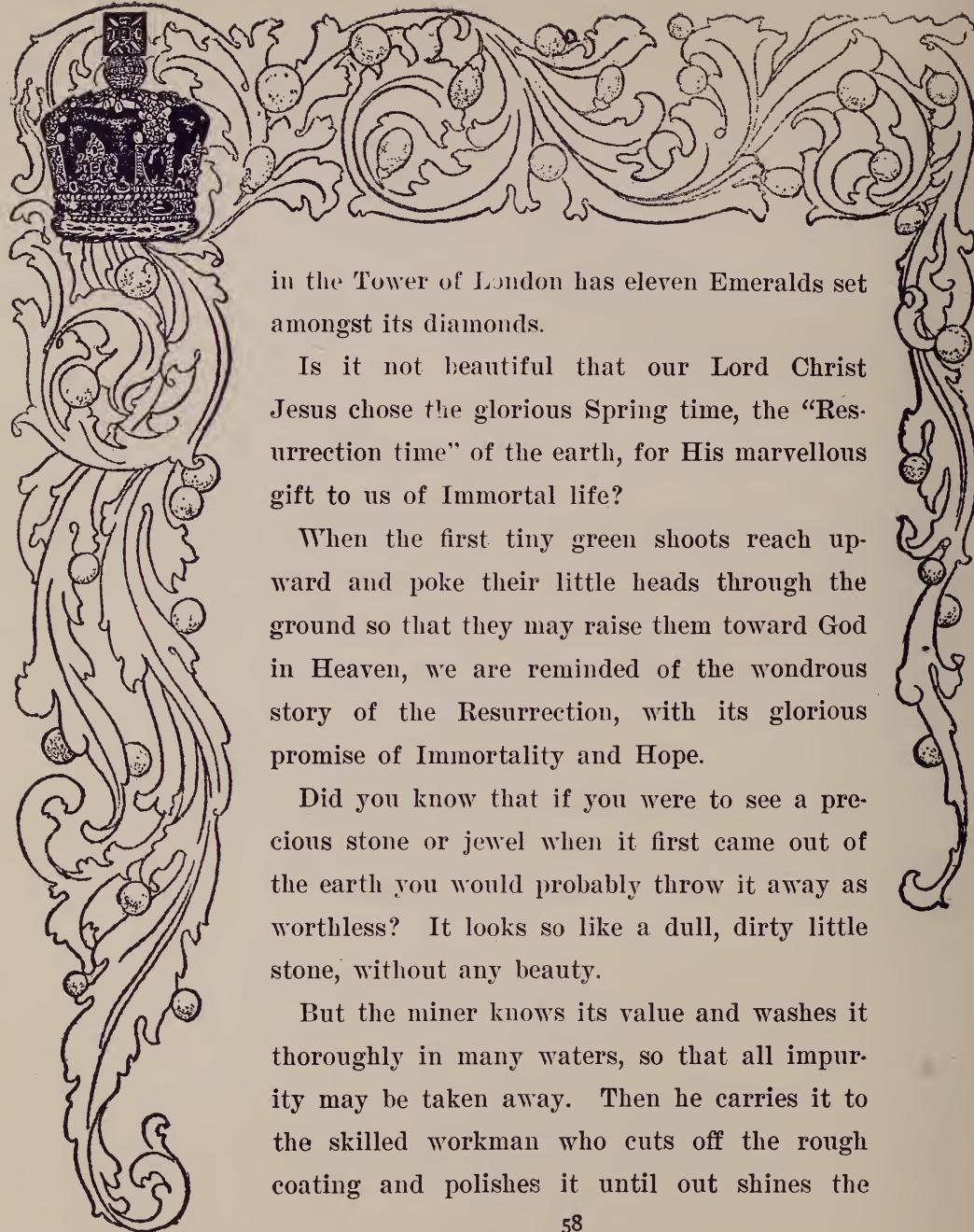
Later on we find that a wonderful messenger
was sent to you and to me and to all the world,
with the news of this great jewel of immortality.
His name is written in 2 Timothy 1:10. When
we have placed this jewel in our crown He in-
vites us all to be His guests in that "City Beau-
tiful" we read about in the Book of Revelation.

Our Emerald also stands for "Hope."

There are twelve most interesting passages in
our Bible mine studded with this jewel. Hope
is worn as a helmet to protect the head in our
battles through life. Dig this out of the cham-
ber called 1 Thessalonians 5:8.

The Jews were always fond of Emeralds, and
the Apostle St. John likened the "Rainbow
round about the Throne," about which he tells
us in Revelation, "unto an emerald."

The great crown of England that we visited



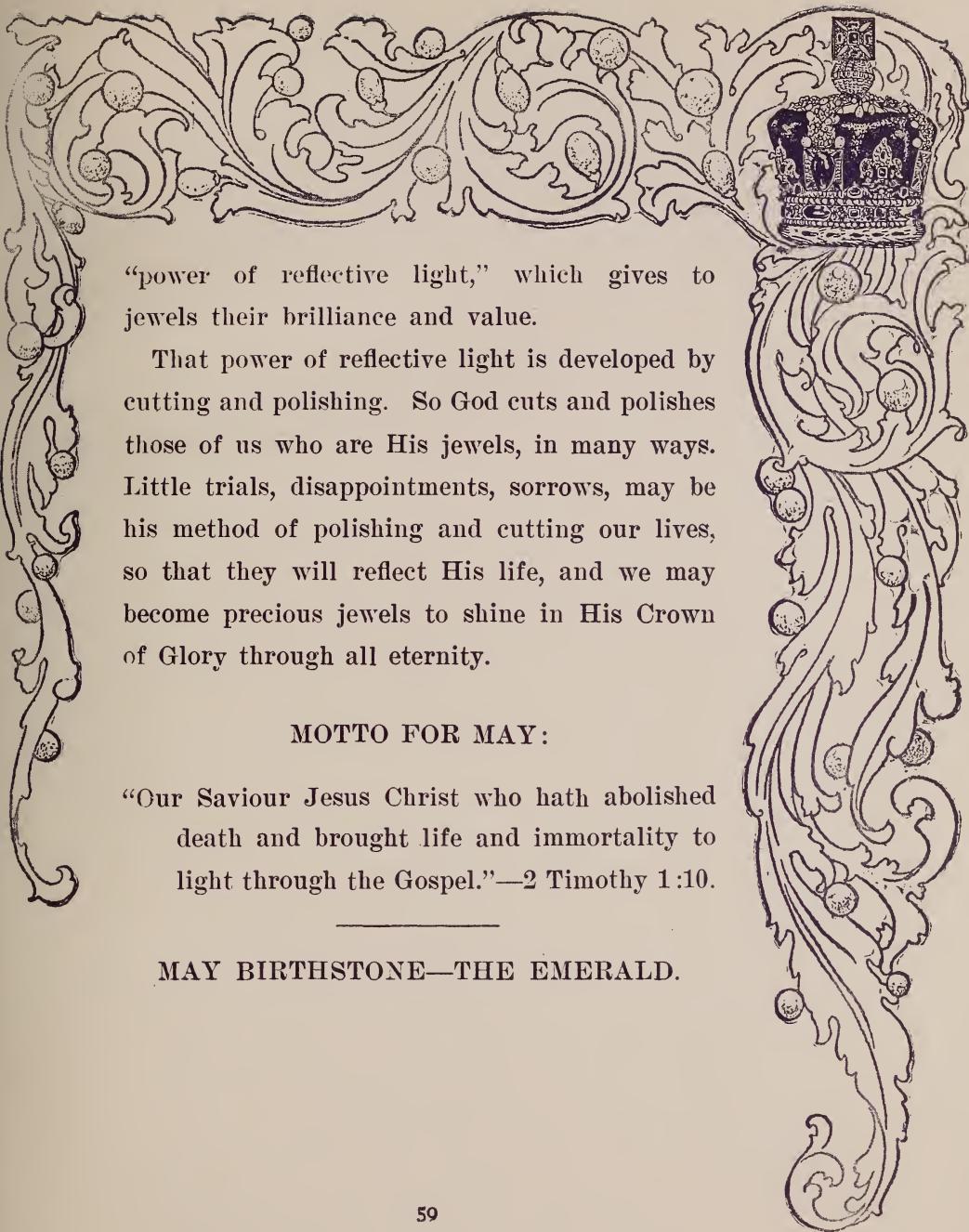
in the Tower of London has eleven Emeralds set amongst its diamonds.

Is it not beautiful that our Lord Christ Jesus chose the glorious Spring time, the "Resurrection time" of the earth, for His marvellous gift to us of Immortal life?

When the first tiny green shoots reach upward and poke their little heads through the ground so that they may raise them toward God in Heaven, we are reminded of the wondrous story of the Resurrection, with its glorious promise of Immortality and Hope.

Did you know that if you were to see a precious stone or jewel when it first came out of the earth you would probably throw it away as worthless? It looks so like a dull, dirty little stone, without any beauty.

But the miner knows its value and washes it thoroughly in many waters, so that all impurity may be taken away. Then he carries it to the skilled workman who cuts off the rough coating and polishes it until out shines the



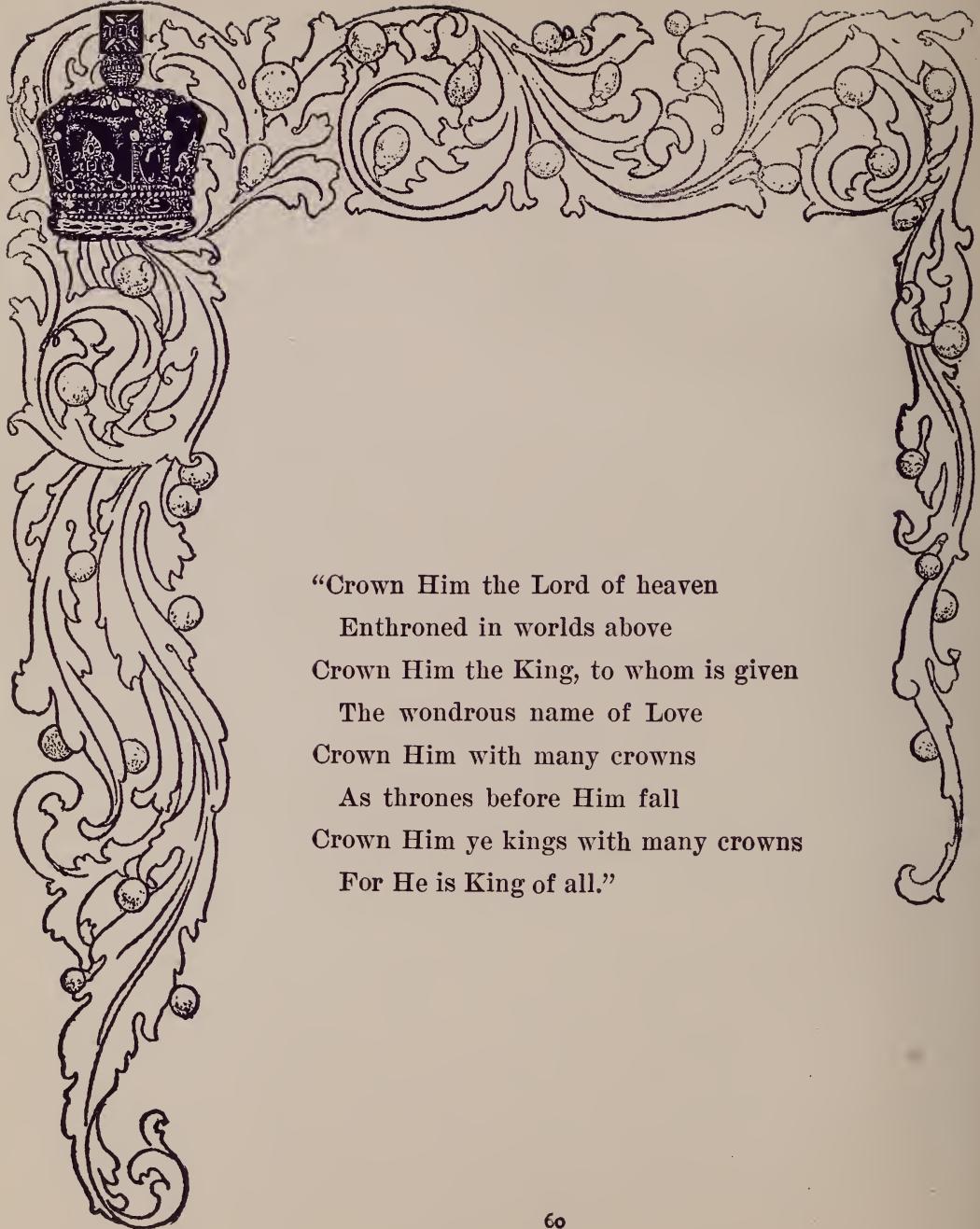
"power of reflective light," which gives to jewels their brilliance and value.

That power of reflective light is developed by cutting and polishing. So God cuts and polishes those of us who are His jewels, in many ways. Little trials, disappointments, sorrows, may be his method of polishing and cutting our lives, so that they will reflect His life, and we may become precious jewels to shine in His Crown of Glory through all eternity.

MOTTO FOR MAY:

"Our Saviour Jesus Christ who hath abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel."—2 Timothy 1:10.

MAY BIRTHSTONE—THE EMERALD.



“Crown Him the Lord of heaven
Enthroned in worlds above
Crown Him the King, to whom is given
The wondrous name of Love
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall
Crown Him ye kings with many crowns
For He is King of all.”







JUNE

THE AGATE.

NOW we will place another jewel in our crown for the glorious month of June.

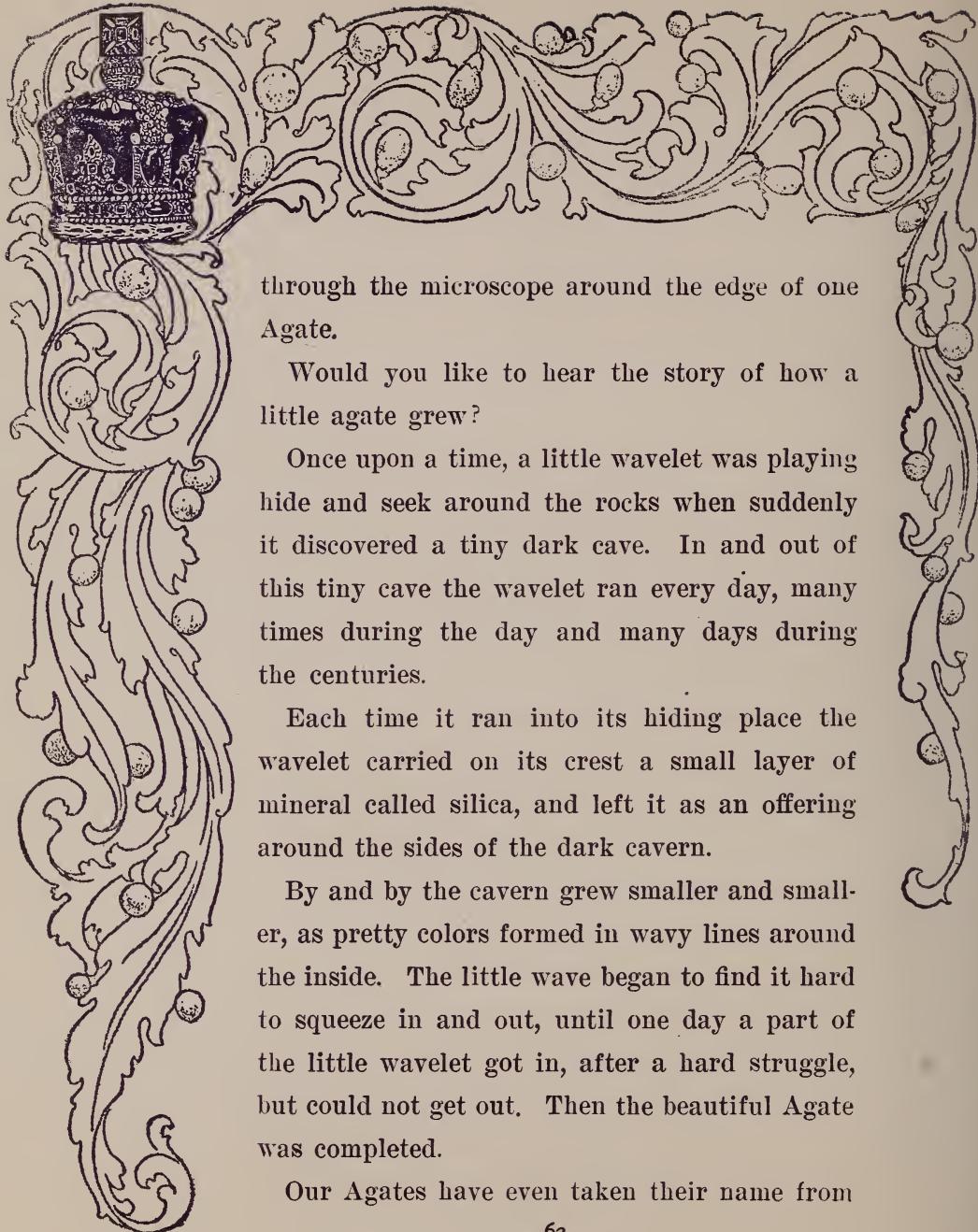
The birthstone of all the little miners who were June babies.

Here it is, an Agate.

Not of such high rank as our Emerald, but rich in coloring, and of great service. From the earliest ages Agates have been known and valued for the beauty of their varied coloring.

Did you ever hear of anything growing from the outside? All seeds and plants grow from the inside, beginning at the heart. This is the way we grow as children of God. First giving our hearts to Him and then our whole lives.

But the Agate grows from the outside. Fine wavy lines of white, brown, grey, blue, yellow, red and black are added, layer upon layer until sometimes over 1,700 layers have been counted



through the microscope around the edge of one Agate.

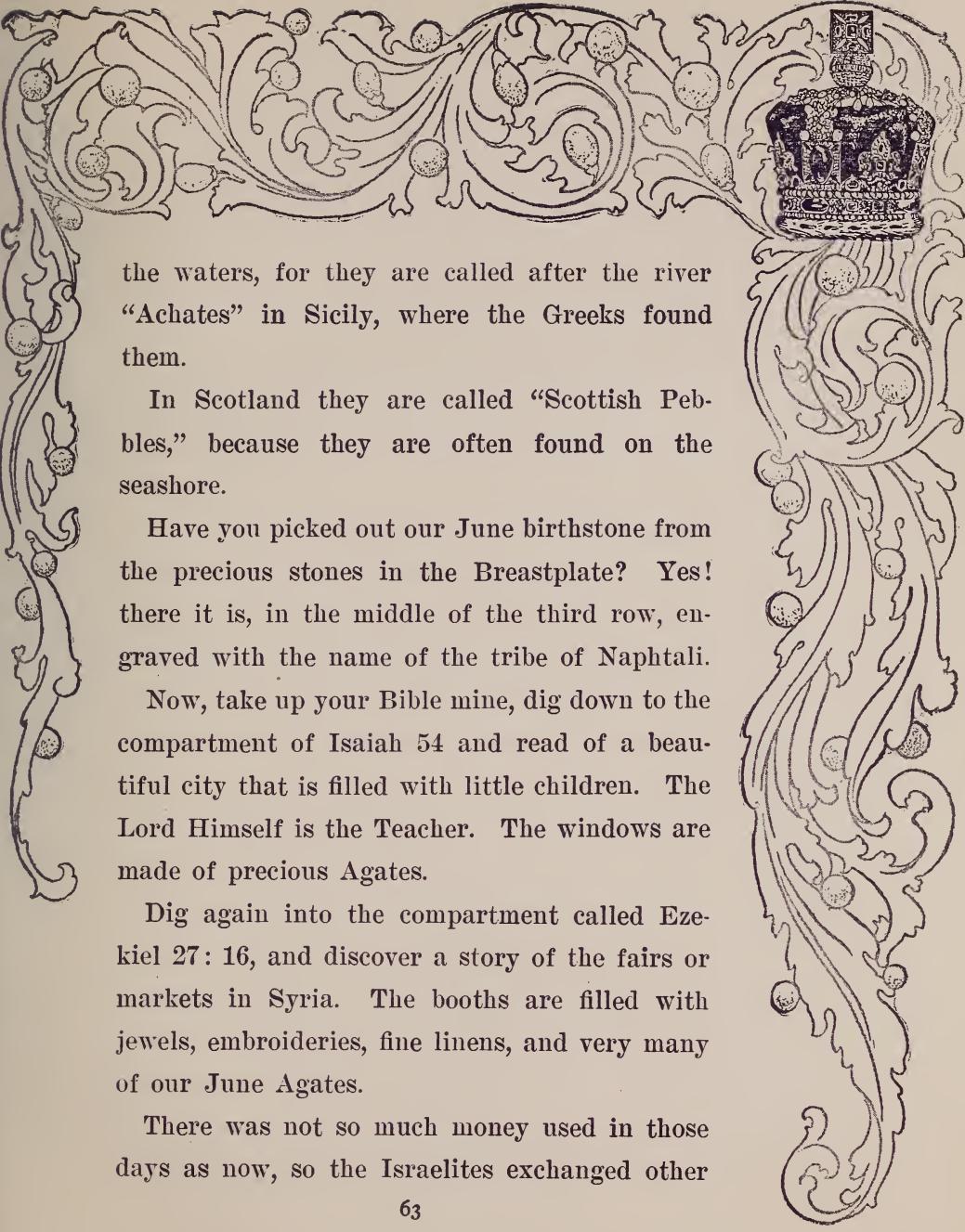
Would you like to hear the story of how a little agate grew?

Once upon a time, a little wavelet was playing hide and seek around the rocks when suddenly it discovered a tiny dark cave. In and out of this tiny cave the wavelet ran every day, many times during the day and many days during the centuries.

Each time it ran into its hiding place the wavelet carried on its crest a small layer of mineral called silica, and left it as an offering around the sides of the dark cavern.

By and by the cavern grew smaller and smaller, as pretty colors formed in wavy lines around the inside. The little wave began to find it hard to squeeze in and out, until one day a part of the little wavelet got in, after a hard struggle, but could not get out. Then the beautiful Agate was completed.

Our Agates have even taken their name from



the waters, for they are called after the river "Achates" in Sicily, where the Greeks found them.

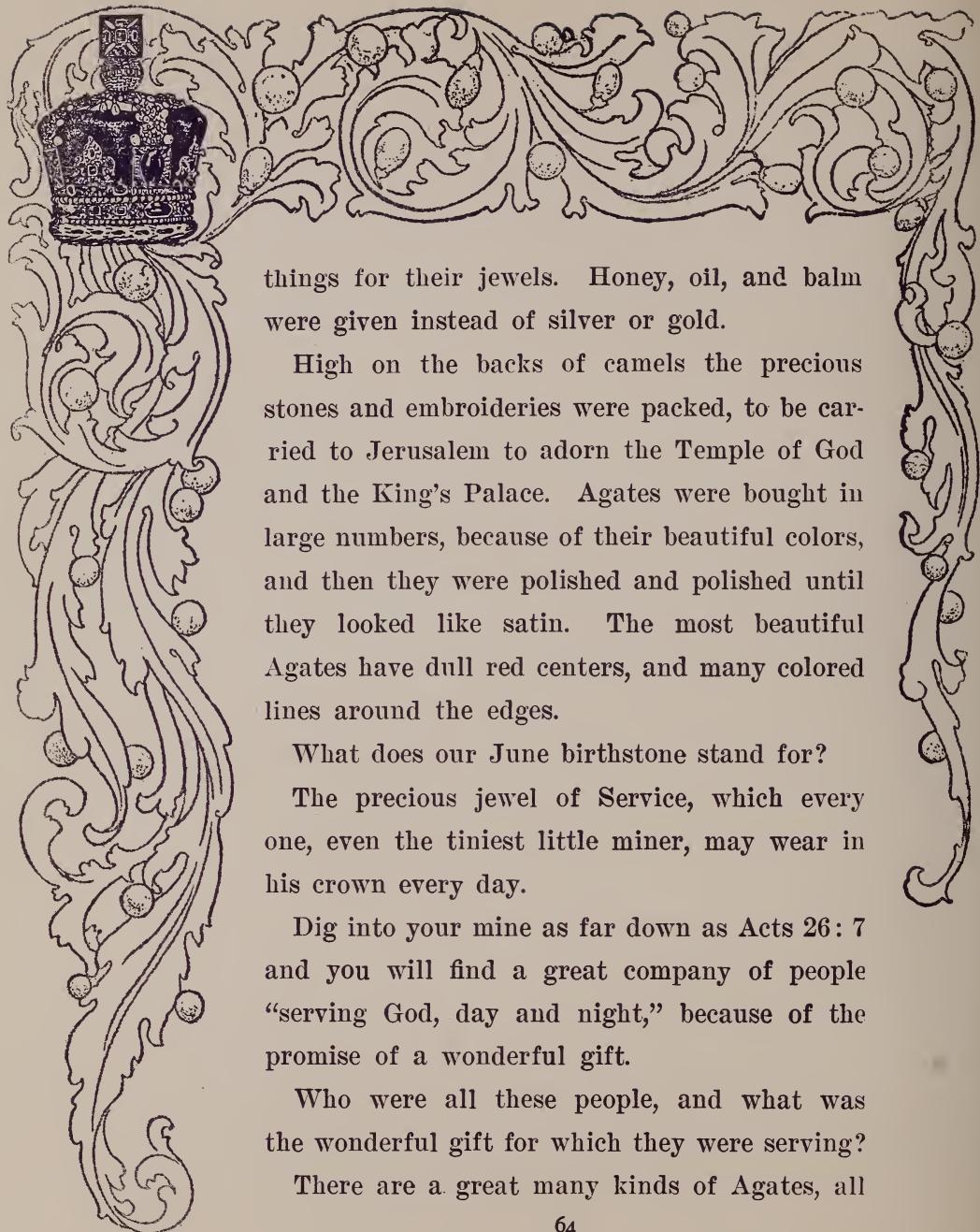
In Scotland they are called "Scottish Pebbles," because they are often found on the seashore.

Have you picked out our June birthstone from the precious stones in the Breastplate? Yes! there it is, in the middle of the third row, engraved with the name of the tribe of Naphtali.

Now, take up your Bible mine, dig down to the compartment of Isaiah 54 and read of a beautiful city that is filled with little children. The Lord Himself is the Teacher. The windows are made of precious Agates.

Dig again into the compartment called Ezekiel 27: 16, and discover a story of the fairs or markets in Syria. The booths are filled with jewels, embroideries, fine linens, and very many of our June Agates.

There was not so much money used in those days as now, so the Israelites exchanged other



things for their jewels. Honey, oil, and balm were given instead of silver or gold.

High on the backs of camels the precious stones and embroideries were packed, to be carried to Jerusalem to adorn the Temple of God and the King's Palace. Agates were bought in large numbers, because of their beautiful colors, and then they were polished and polished until they looked like satin. The most beautiful Agates have dull red centers, and many colored lines around the edges.

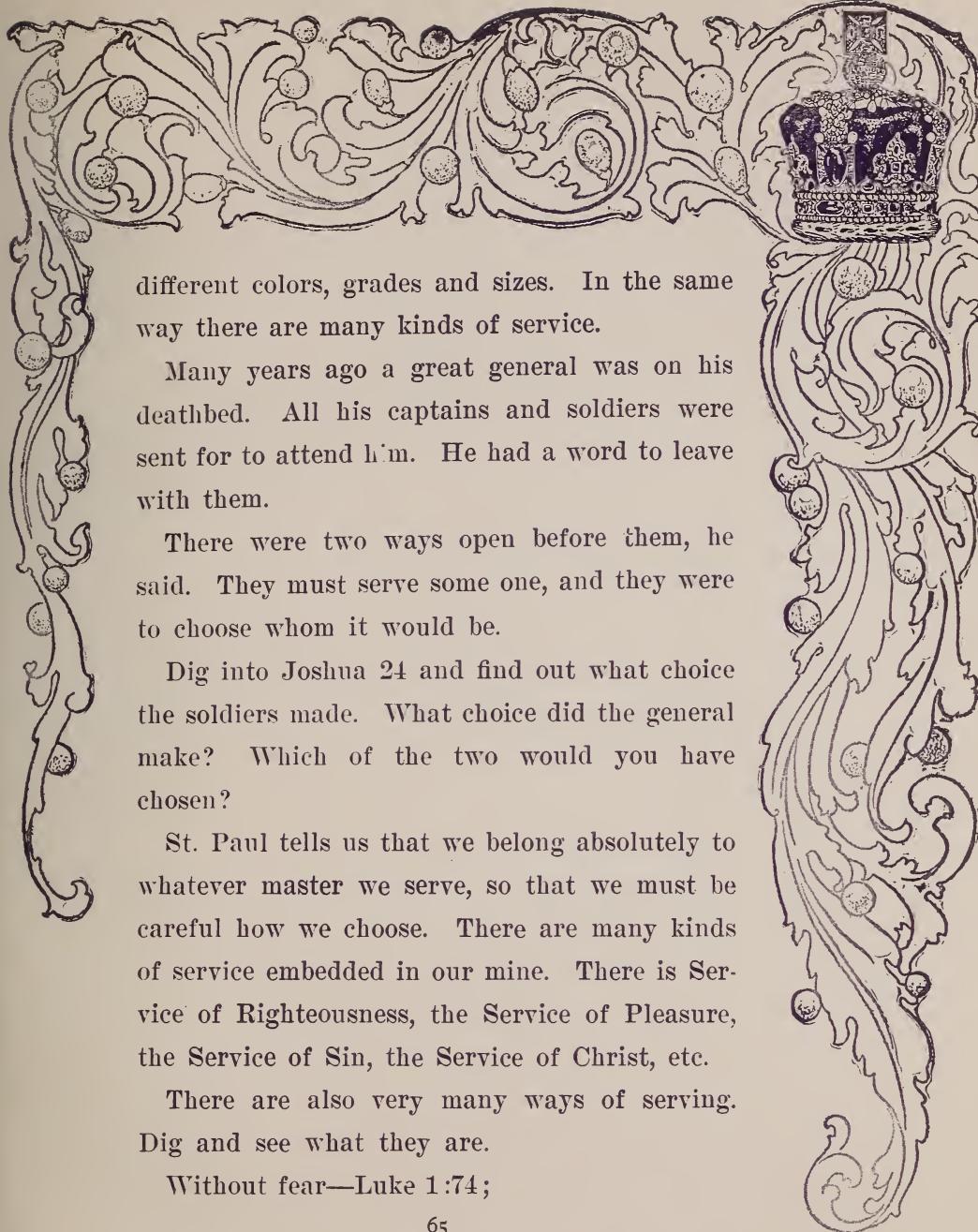
What does our June birthstone stand for?

The precious jewel of Service, which every one, even the tiniest little miner, may wear in his crown every day.

Dig into your mine as far down as Acts 26: 7 and you will find a great company of people "serving God, day and night," because of the promise of a wonderful gift.

Who were all these people, and what was the wonderful gift for which they were serving?

There are a great many kinds of Agates, all



different colors, grades and sizes. In the same way there are many kinds of service.

Many years ago a great general was on his deathbed. All his captains and soldiers were sent for to attend him. He had a word to leave with them.

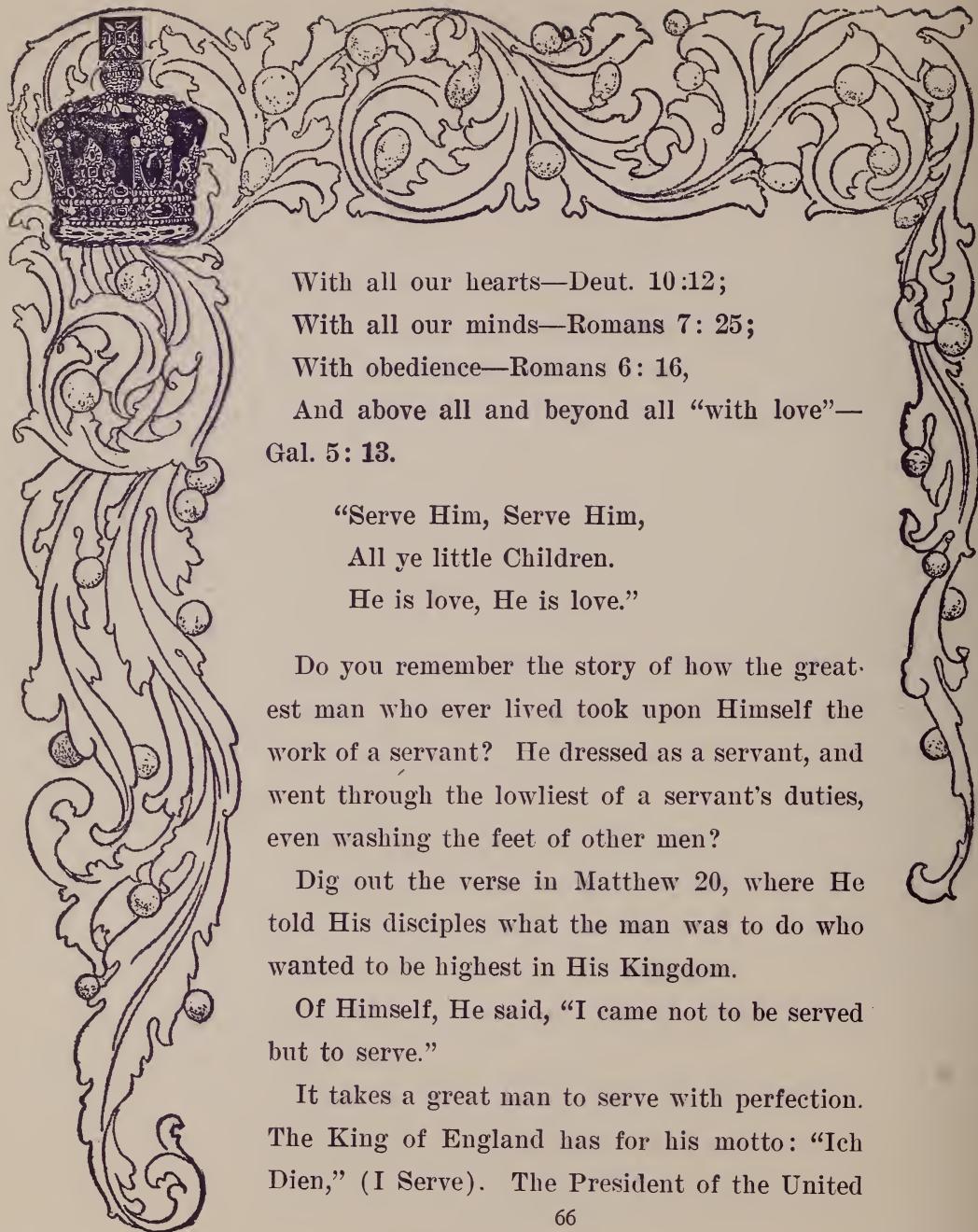
There were two ways open before them, he said. They must serve some one, and they were to choose whom it would be.

Dig into Joshua 24 and find out what choice the soldiers made. What choice did the general make? Which of the two would you have chosen?

St. Paul tells us that we belong absolutely to whatever master we serve, so that we must be careful how we choose. There are many kinds of service embedded in our mine. There is Service of Righteousness, the Service of Pleasure, the Service of Sin, the Service of Christ, etc.

There are also very many ways of serving. Dig and see what they are.

Without fear—Luke 1:74;



With all our hearts—Deut. 10:12;
With all our minds—Romans 7: 25;
With obedience—Romans 6: 16,
And above all and beyond all “with love”—
Gal. 5: 13.

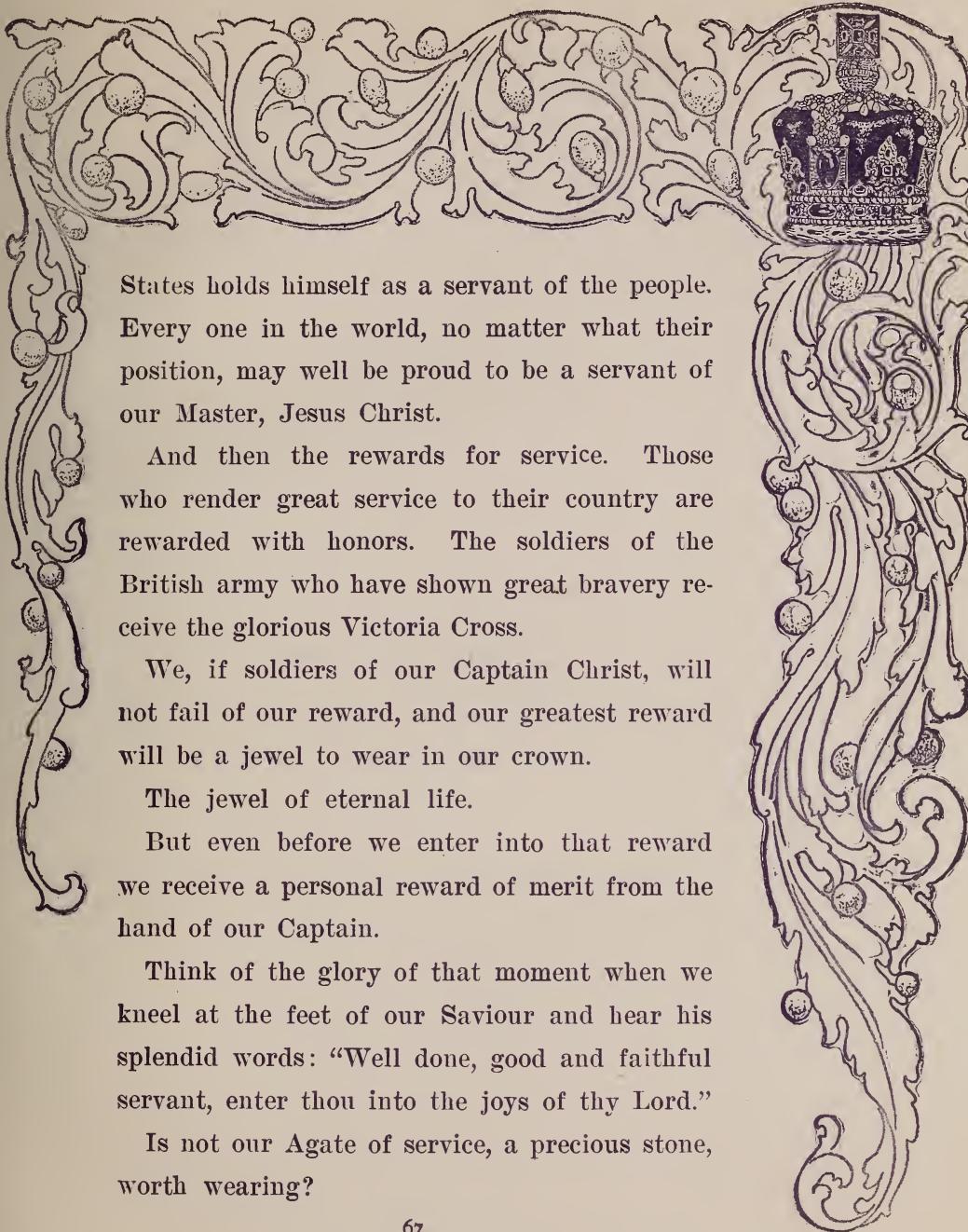
“Serve Him, Serve Him,
All ye little Children.
He is love, He is love.”

Do you remember the story of how the greatest man who ever lived took upon Himself the work of a servant? He dressed as a servant, and went through the lowliest of a servant's duties, even washing the feet of other men?

Dig out the verse in Matthew 20, where He told His disciples what the man was to do who wanted to be highest in His Kingdom.

Of Himself, He said, “I came not to be served but to serve.”

It takes a great man to serve with perfection. The King of England has for his motto: “Ich Dien,” (I Serve). The President of the United



States holds himself as a servant of the people. Every one in the world, no matter what their position, may well be proud to be a servant of our Master, Jesus Christ.

And then the rewards for service. Those who render great service to their country are rewarded with honors. The soldiers of the British army who have shown great bravery receive the glorious Victoria Cross.

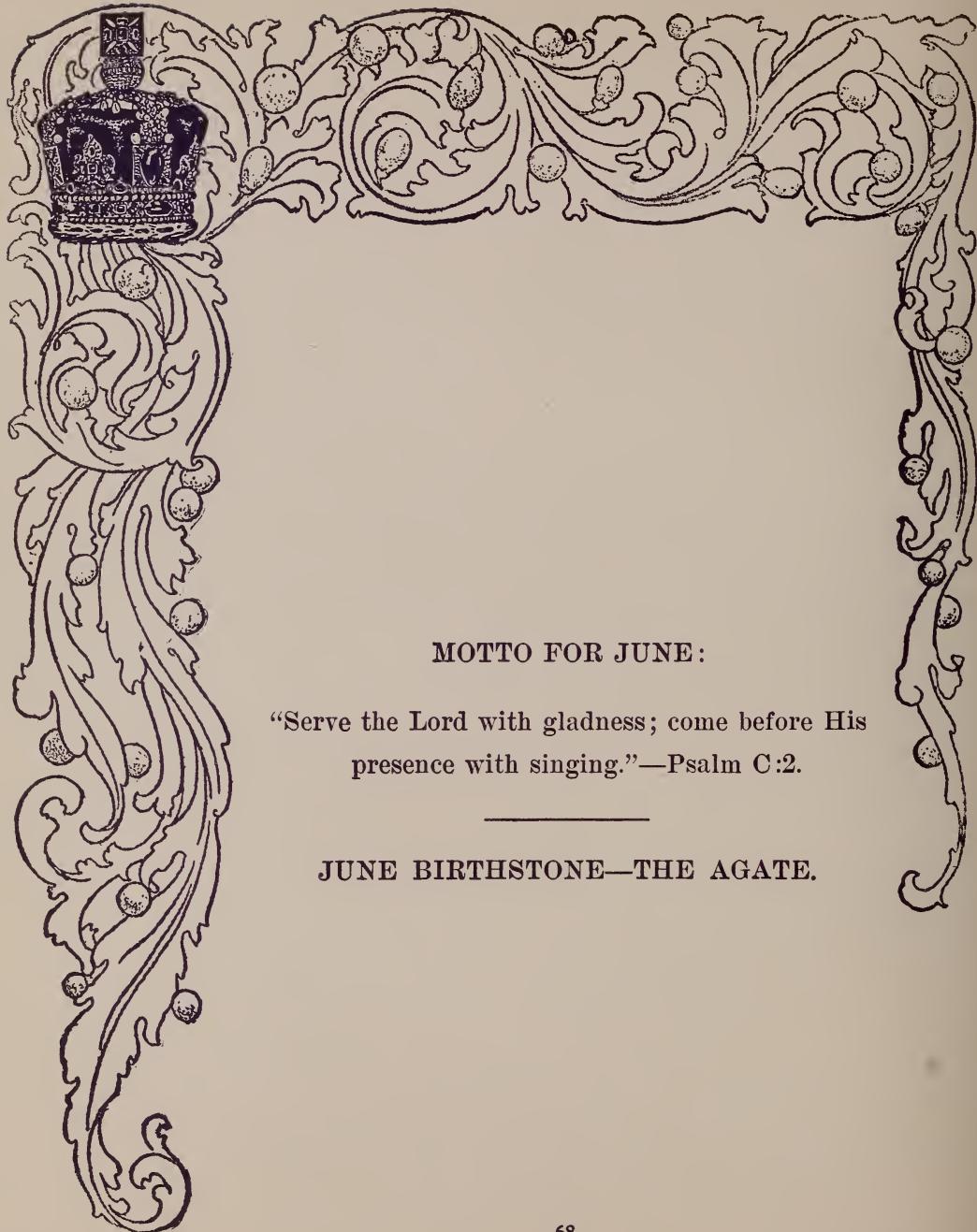
We, if soldiers of our Captain Christ, will not fail of our reward, and our greatest reward will be a jewel to wear in our crown.

The jewel of eternal life.

But even before we enter into that reward we receive a personal reward of merit from the hand of our Captain.

Think of the glory of that moment when we kneel at the feet of our Saviour and hear his splendid words: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord."

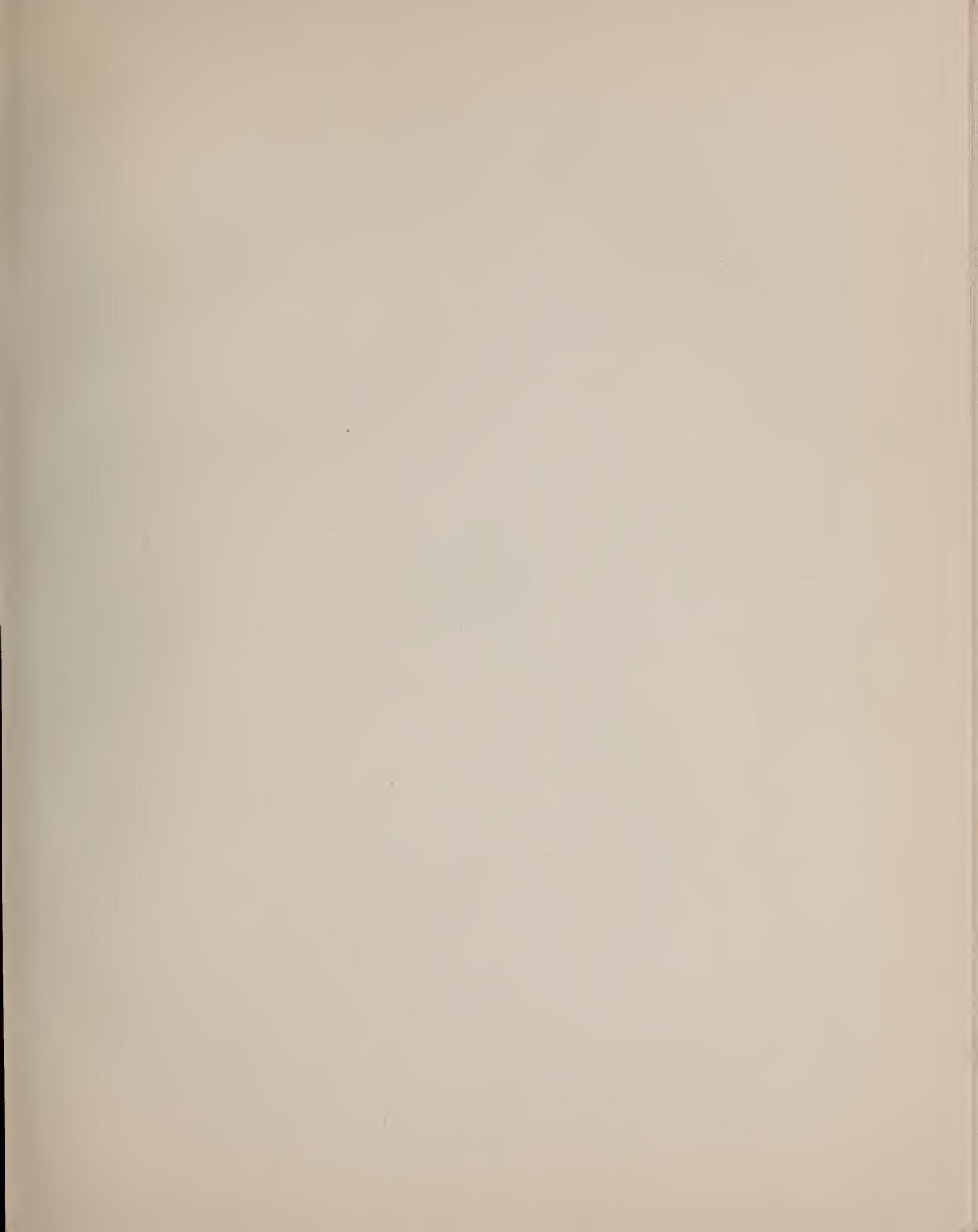
Is not our Agate of service, a precious stone, worth wearing?



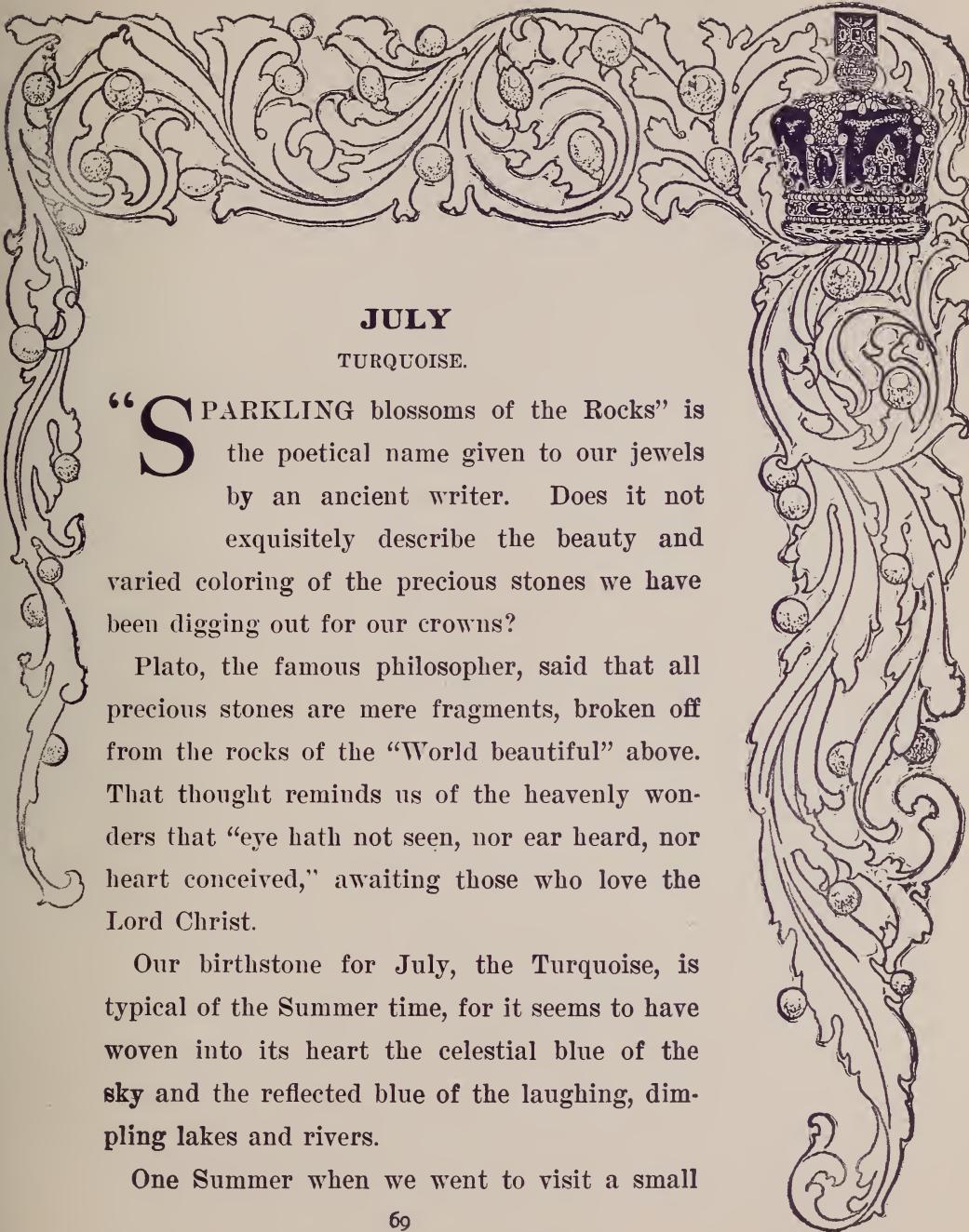
MOTTO FOR JUNE:

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His
presence with singing."—Psalm C:2.

JUNE BIRTHSTONE—THE AGATE.







JULY

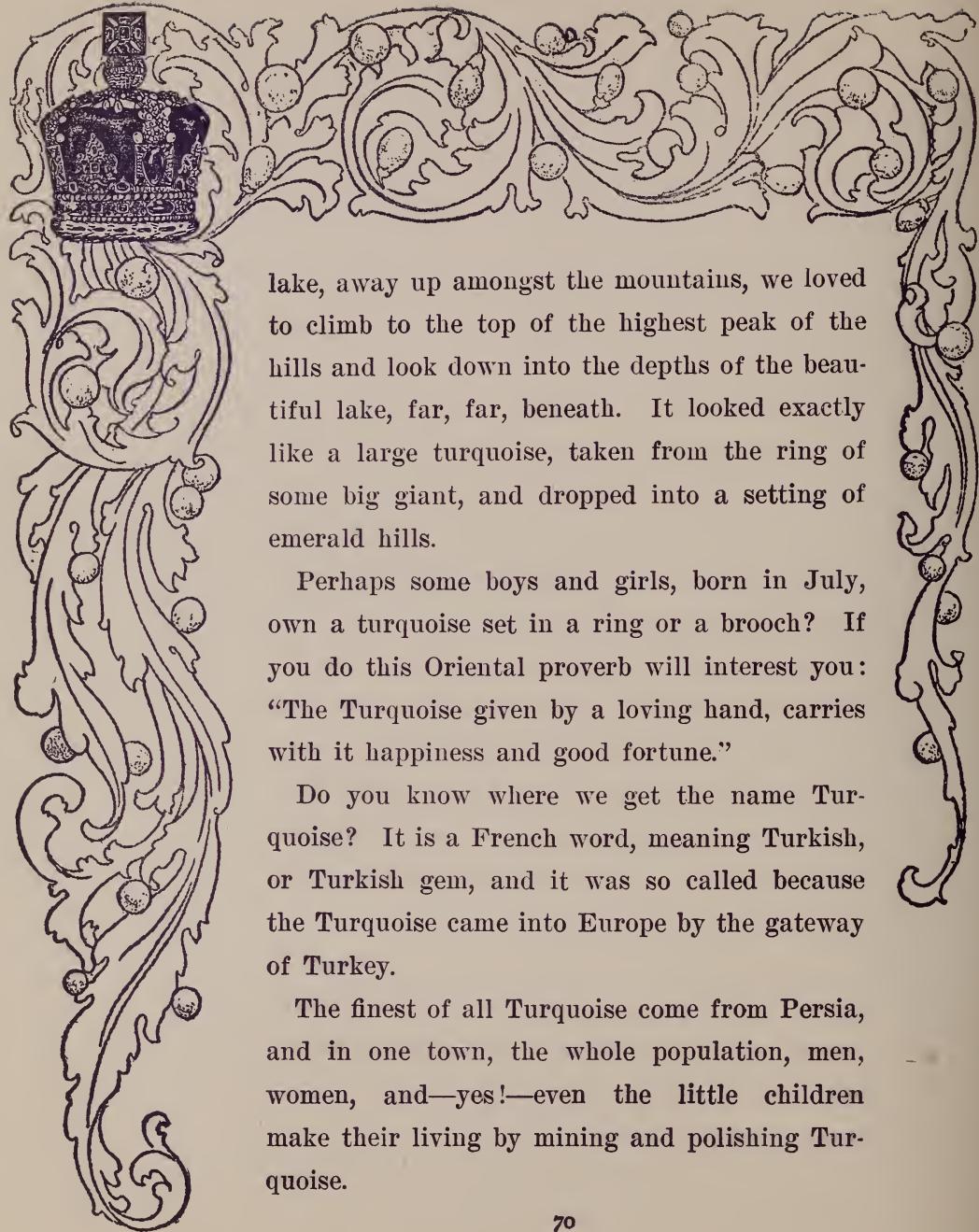
TURQUOISE.

“SPARKLING blossoms of the Rocks” is the poetical name given to our jewels by an ancient writer. Does it not exquisitely describe the beauty and varied coloring of the precious stones we have been digging out for our crowns?

Plato, the famous philosopher, said that all precious stones are mere fragments, broken off from the rocks of the “World beautiful” above. That thought reminds us of the heavenly wonders that “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor heart conceived,” awaiting those who love the Lord Christ.

Our birthstone for July, the Turquoise, is typical of the Summer time, for it seems to have woven into its heart the celestial blue of the sky and the reflected blue of the laughing, dimpling lakes and rivers.

One Summer when we went to visit a small

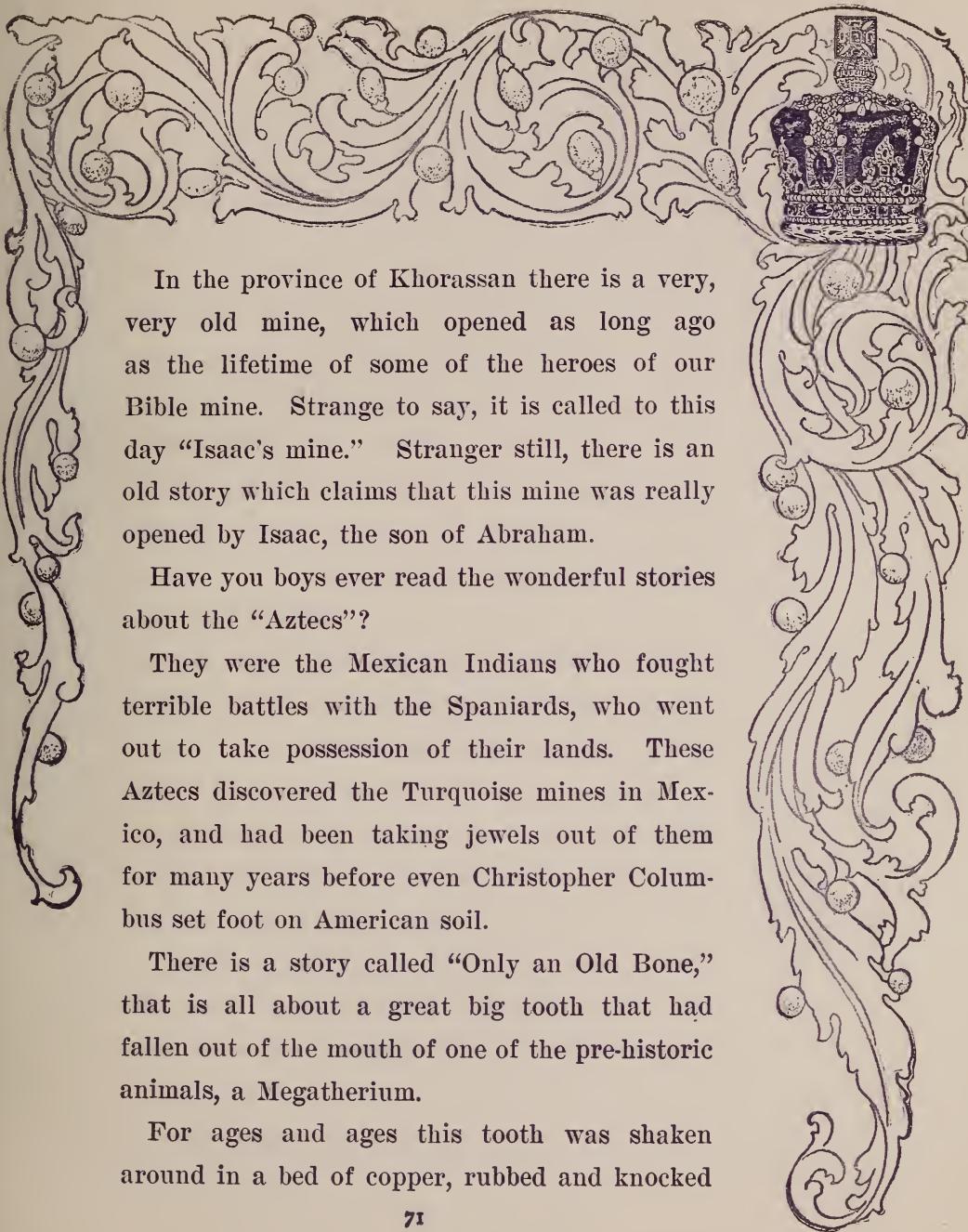


lake, away up amongst the mountains, we loved to climb to the top of the highest peak of the hills and look down into the depths of the beautiful lake, far, far, beneath. It looked exactly like a large turquoise, taken from the ring of some big giant, and dropped into a setting of emerald hills.

Perhaps some boys and girls, born in July, own a turquoise set in a ring or a brooch? If you do this Oriental proverb will interest you: "The Turquoise given by a loving hand, carries with it happiness and good fortune."

Do you know where we get the name Turquoise? It is a French word, meaning Turkish, or Turkish gem, and it was so called because the Turquoise came into Europe by the gateway of Turkey.

The finest of all Turquoise come from Persia, and in one town, the whole population, men, women, and—yes!—even the little children make their living by mining and polishing Turquoise.



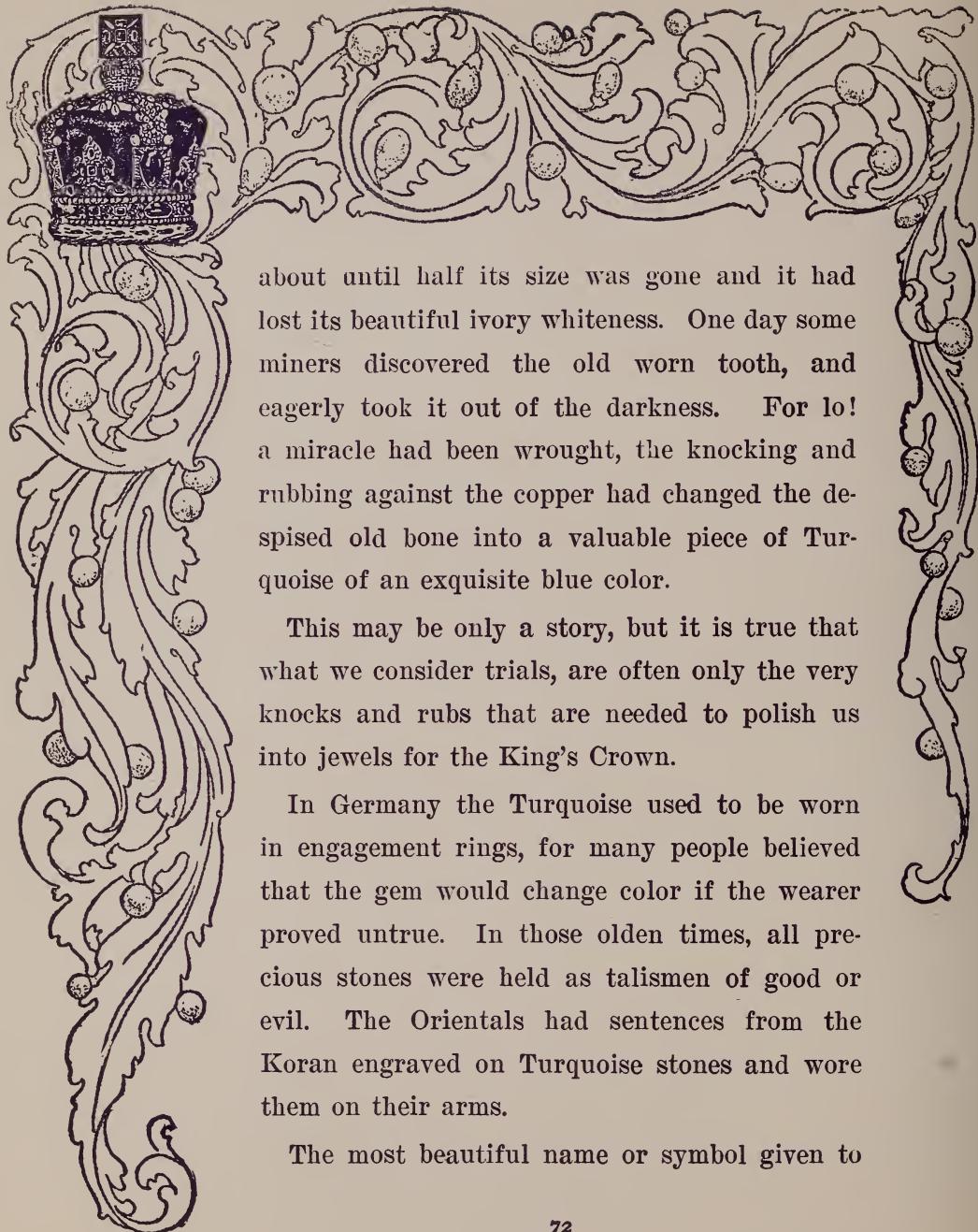
In the province of Khorassan there is a very, very old mine, which opened as long ago as the lifetime of some of the heroes of our Bible mine. Strange to say, it is called to this day "Isaac's mine." Stranger still, there is an old story which claims that this mine was really opened by Isaac, the son of Abraham.

Have you boys ever read the wonderful stories about the "Aztecs"?

They were the Mexican Indians who fought terrible battles with the Spaniards, who went out to take possession of their lands. These Aztecs discovered the Turquoise mines in Mexico, and had been taking jewels out of them for many years before even Christopher Columbus set foot on American soil.

There is a story called "Only an Old Bone," that is all about a great big tooth that had fallen out of the mouth of one of the pre-historic animals, a Megatherium.

For ages and ages this tooth was shaken around in a bed of copper, rubbed and knocked

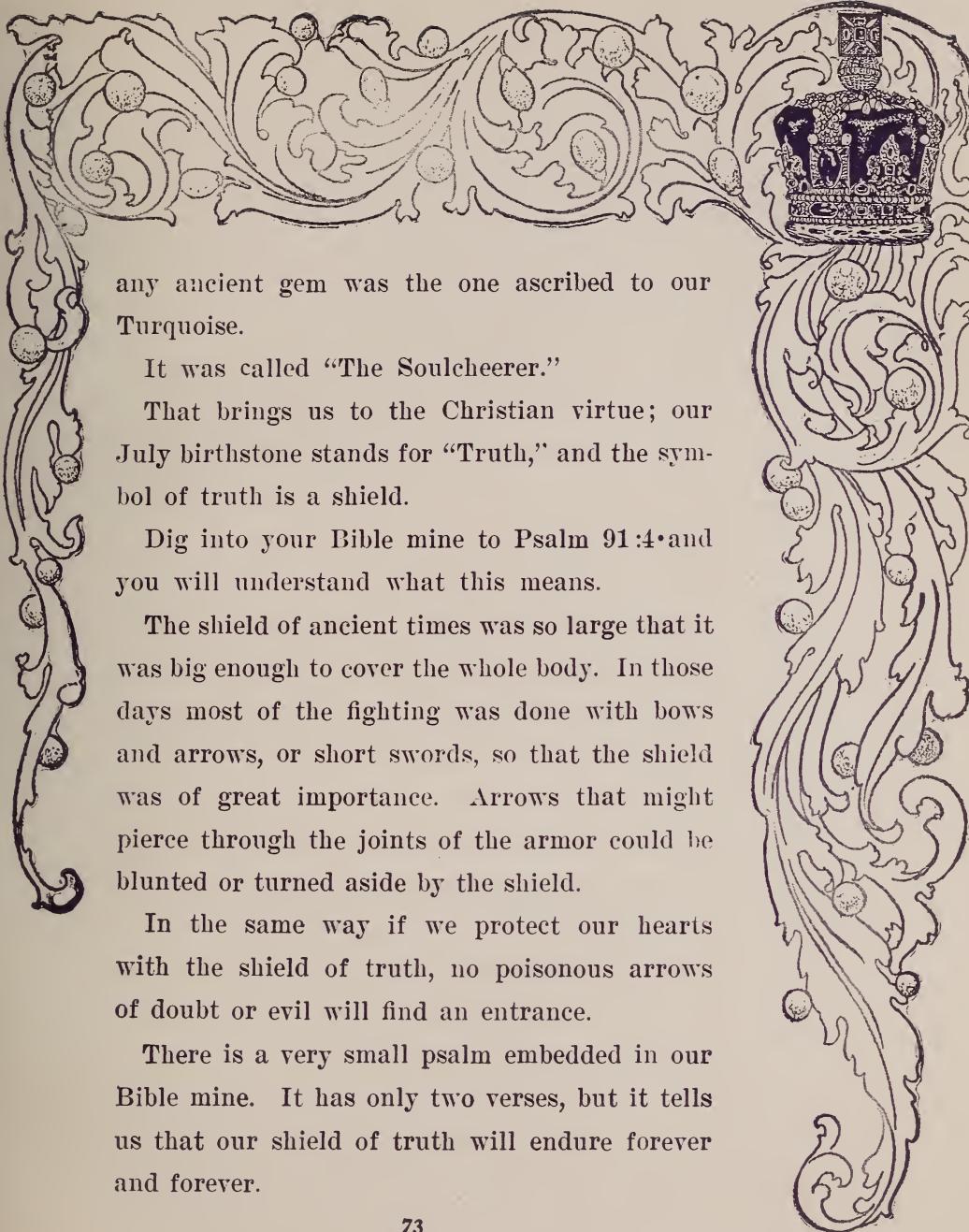


about until half its size was gone and it had lost its beautiful ivory whiteness. One day some miners discovered the old worn tooth, and eagerly took it out of the darkness. For lo! a miracle had been wrought, the knocking and rubbing against the copper had changed the despised old bone into a valuable piece of Turquoise of an exquisite blue color.

This may be only a story, but it is true that what we consider trials, are often only the very knocks and rubs that are needed to polish us into jewels for the King's Crown.

In Germany the Turquoise used to be worn in engagement rings, for many people believed that the gem would change color if the wearer proved untrue. In those olden times, all precious stones were held as talismen of good or evil. The Orientals had sentences from the Koran engraved on Turquoise stones and wore them on their arms.

The most beautiful name or symbol given to



any ancient gem was the one ascribed to our Turquoise.

It was called "The Soulcheerer."

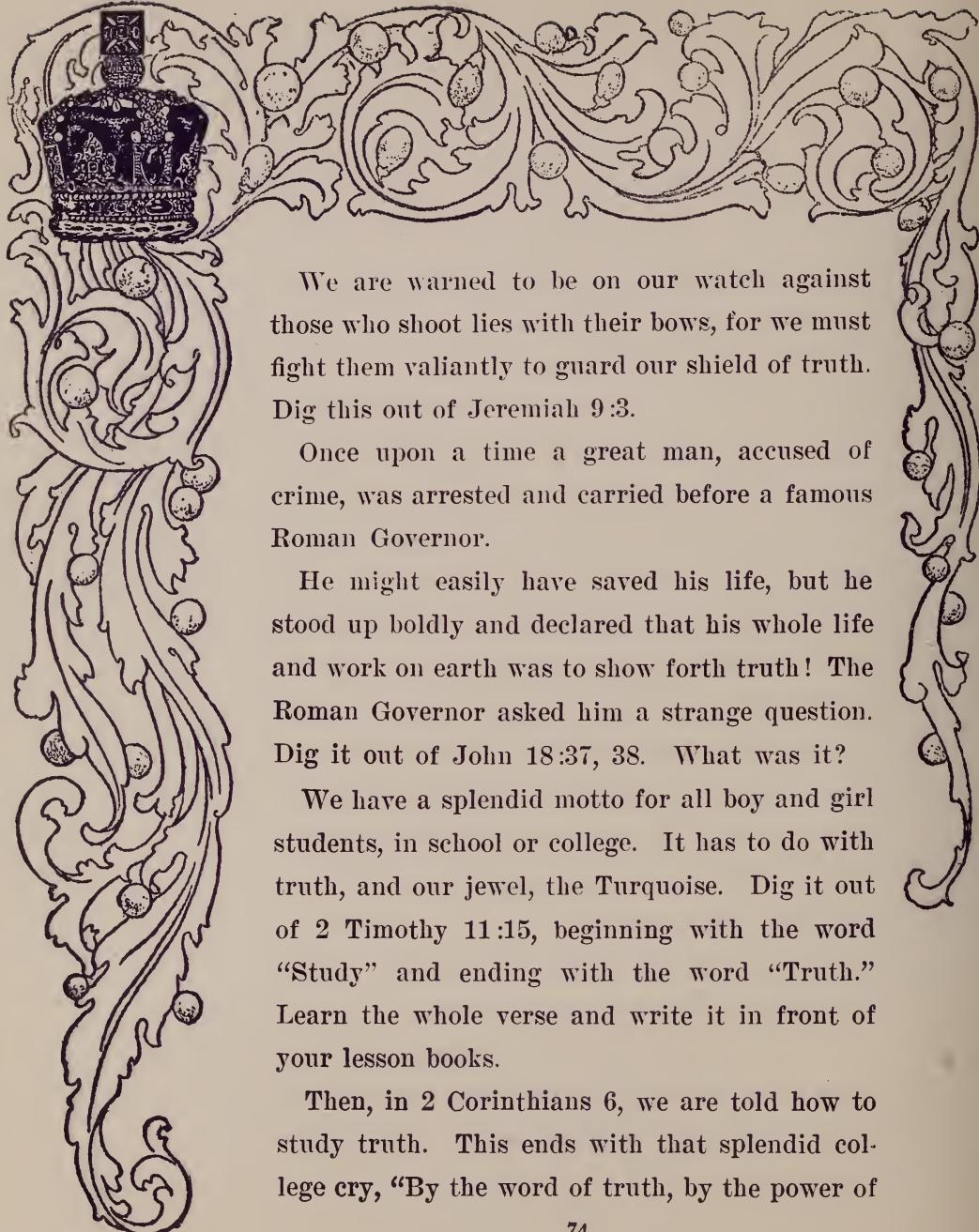
That brings us to the Christian virtue; our July birthstone stands for "Truth," and the symbol of truth is a shield.

Dig into your Bible mine to Psalm 91:4 and you will understand what this means.

The shield of ancient times was so large that it was big enough to cover the whole body. In those days most of the fighting was done with bows and arrows, or short swords, so that the shield was of great importance. Arrows that might pierce through the joints of the armor could be blunted or turned aside by the shield.

In the same way if we protect our hearts with the shield of truth, no poisonous arrows of doubt or evil will find an entrance.

There is a very small psalm embedded in our Bible mine. It has only two verses, but it tells us that our shield of truth will endure forever and forever.



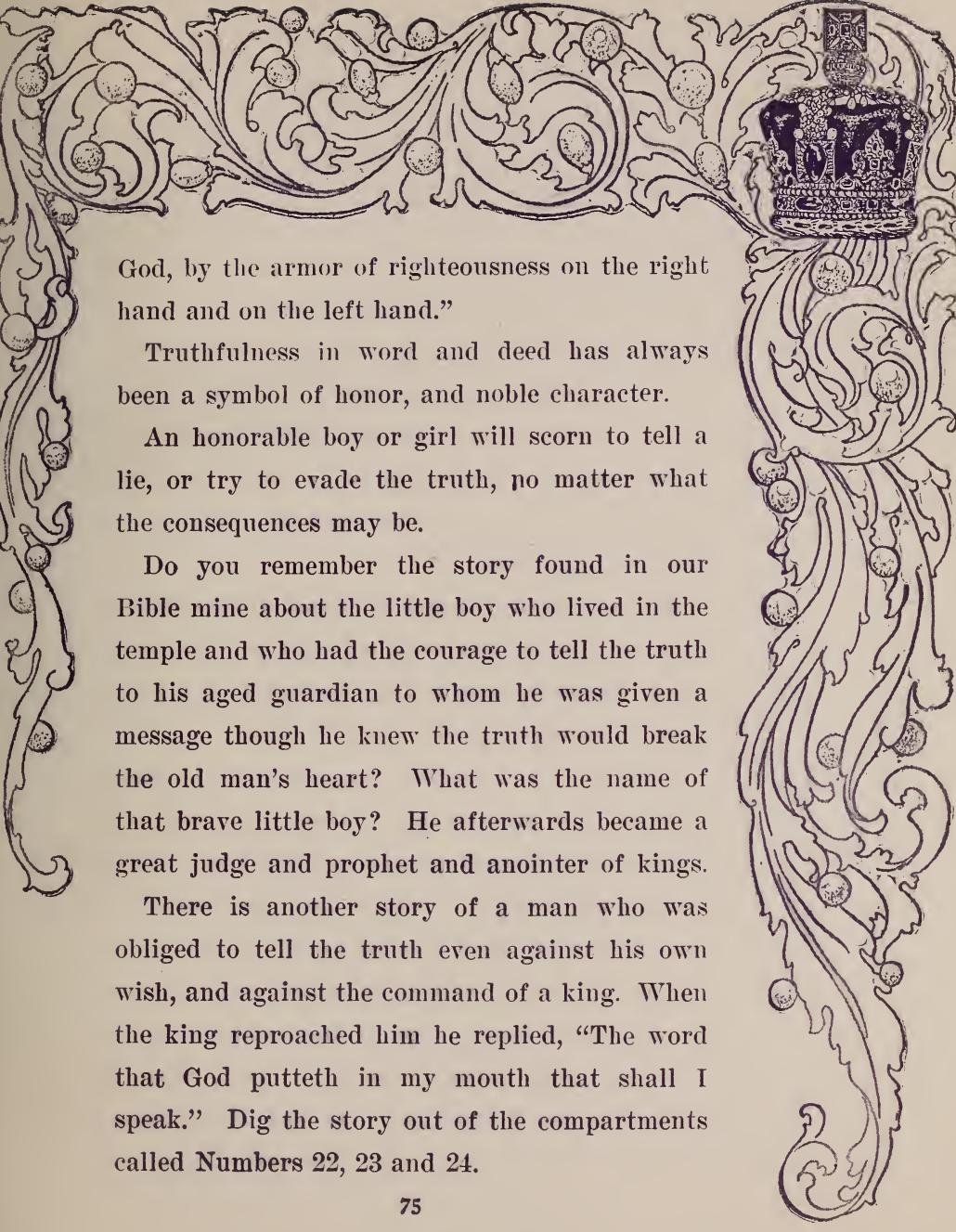
We are warned to be on our watch against those who shoot lies with their bows, for we must fight them valiantly to guard our shield of truth. Dig this out of Jeremiah 9:3.

Once upon a time a great man, accused of crime, was arrested and carried before a famous Roman Governor.

He might easily have saved his life, but he stood up boldly and declared that his whole life and work on earth was to show forth truth! The Roman Governor asked him a strange question. Dig it out of John 18:37, 38. What was it?

We have a splendid motto for all boy and girl students, in school or college. It has to do with truth, and our jewel, the Turquoise. Dig it out of 2 Timothy 11:15, beginning with the word "Study" and ending with the word "Truth." Learn the whole verse and write it in front of your lesson books.

Then, in 2 Corinthians 6, we are told how to study truth. This ends with that splendid college cry, "By the word of truth, by the power of



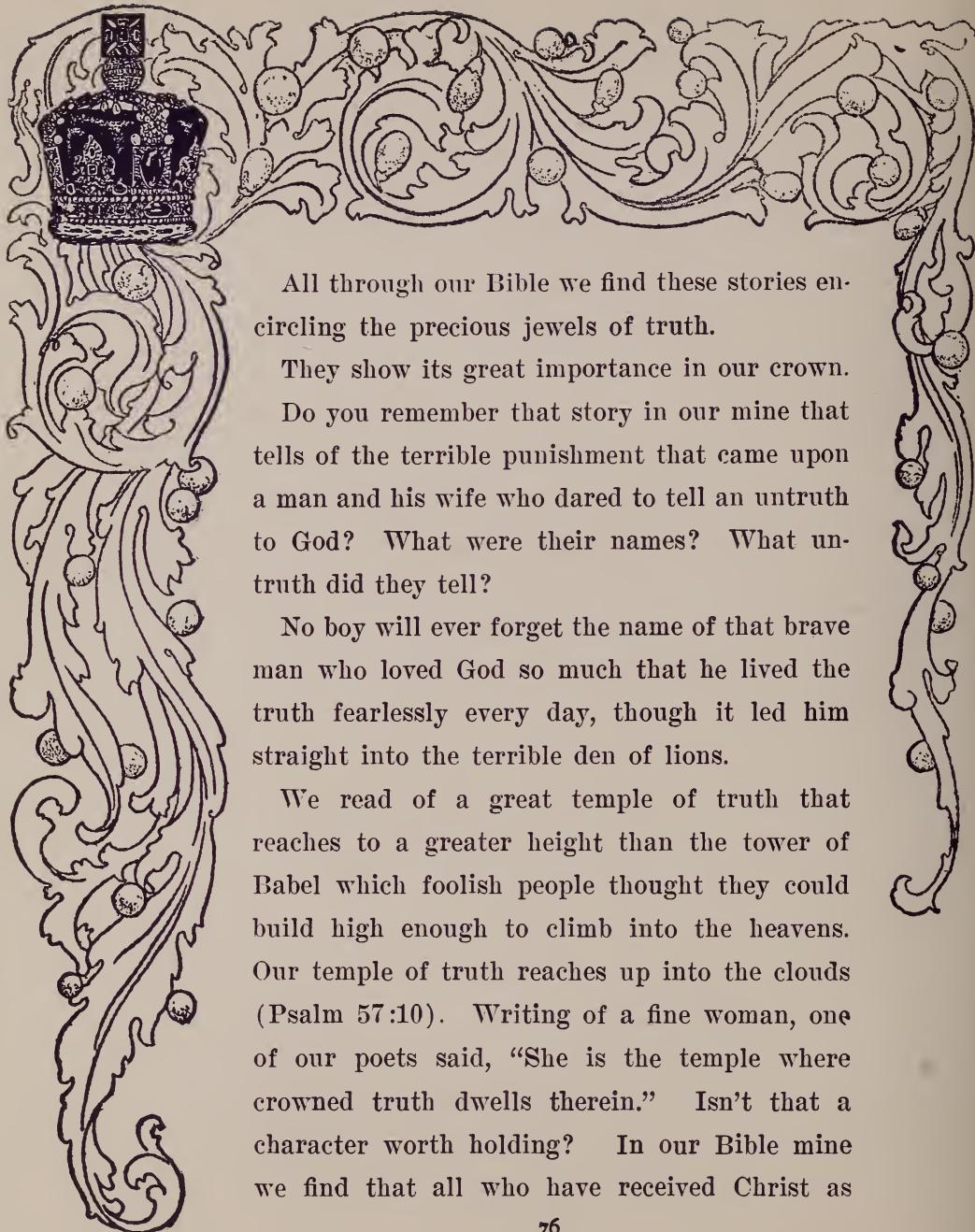
God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left hand."

Truthfulness in word and deed has always been a symbol of honor, and noble character.

An honorable boy or girl will scorn to tell a lie, or try to evade the truth, no matter what the consequences may be.

Do you remember the story found in our Bible mine about the little boy who lived in the temple and who had the courage to tell the truth to his aged guardian to whom he was given a message though he knew the truth would break the old man's heart? What was the name of that brave little boy? He afterwards became a great judge and prophet and anointer of kings.

There is another story of a man who was obliged to tell the truth even against his own wish, and against the command of a king. When the king reproached him he replied, "The word that God putteth in my mouth that shall I speak." Dig the story out of the compartments called Numbers 22, 23 and 24.



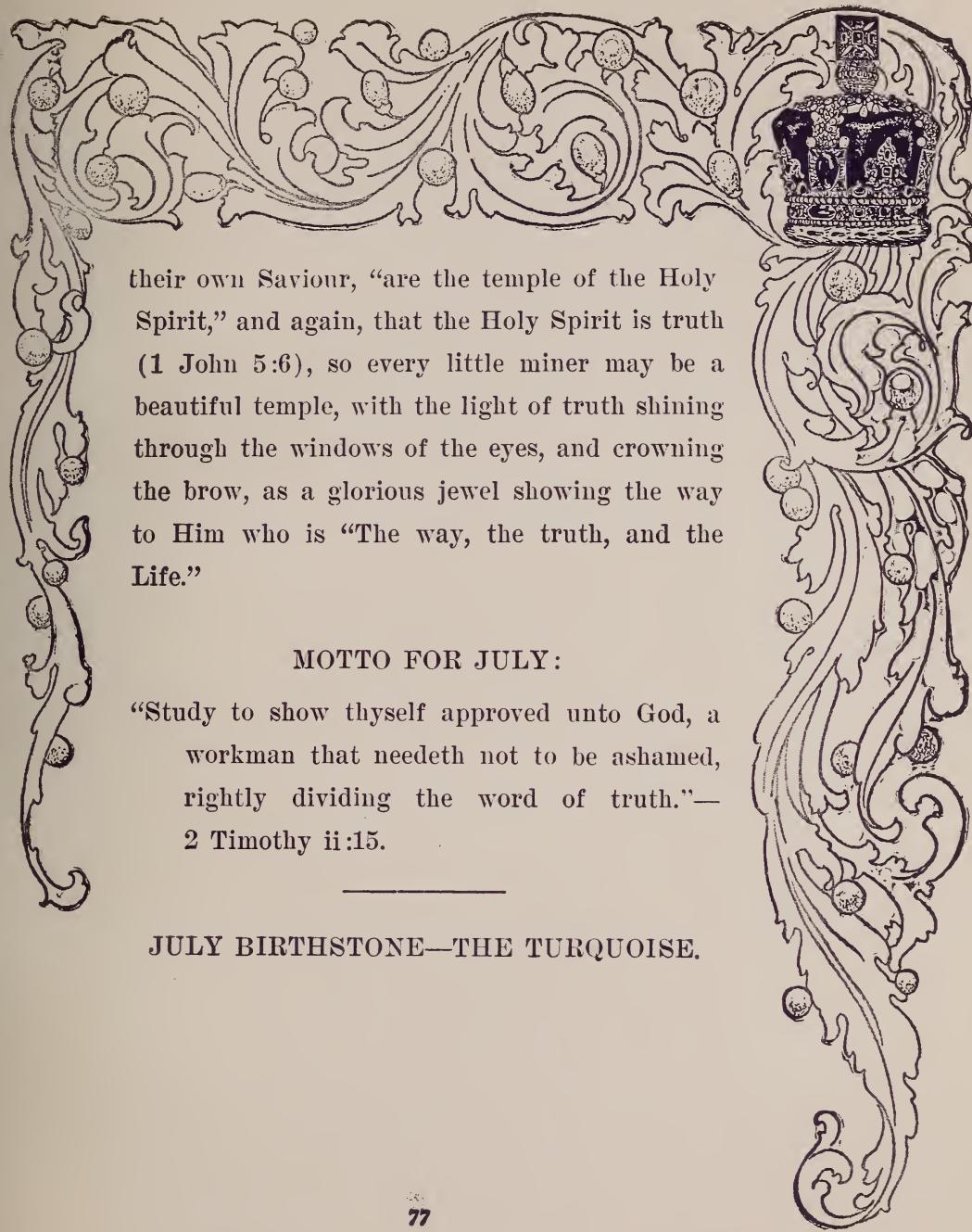
All through our Bible we find these stories encircling the precious jewels of truth.

They show its great importance in our crown.

Do you remember that story in our mine that tells of the terrible punishment that came upon a man and his wife who dared to tell an untruth to God? What were their names? What untruth did they tell?

No boy will ever forget the name of that brave man who loved God so much that he lived the truth fearlessly every day, though it led him straight into the terrible den of lions.

We read of a great temple of truth that reaches to a greater height than the tower of Babel which foolish people thought they could build high enough to climb into the heavens. Our temple of truth reaches up into the clouds (Psalm 57:10). Writing of a fine woman, one of our poets said, "She is the temple where crowned truth dwells therein." Isn't that a character worth holding? In our Bible mine we find that all who have received Christ as

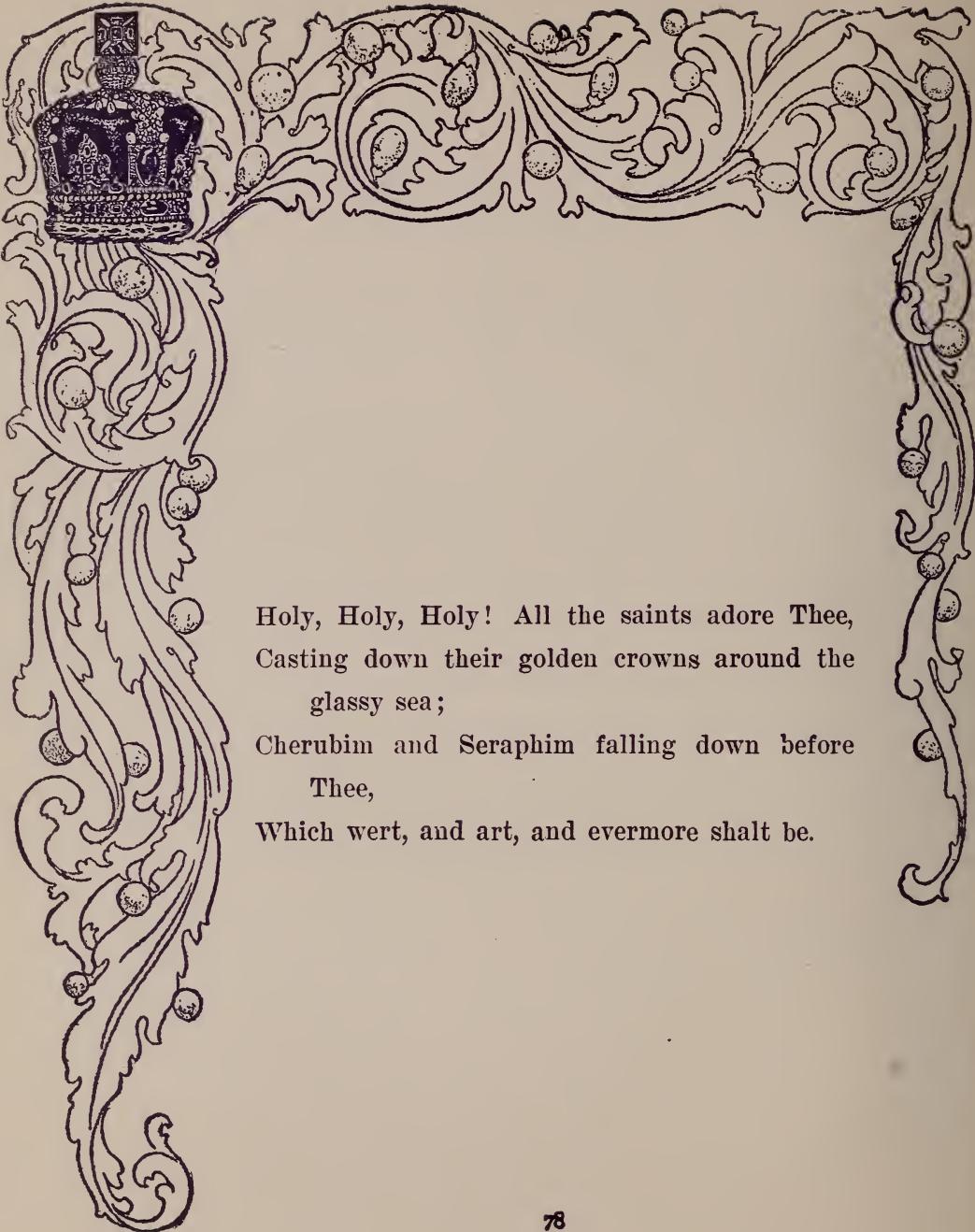


their own Saviour, "are the temple of the Holy Spirit," and again, that the Holy Spirit is truth (1 John 5:6), so every little miner may be a beautiful temple, with the light of truth shining through the windows of the eyes, and crowning the brow, as a glorious jewel showing the way to Him who is "The way, the truth, and the Life."

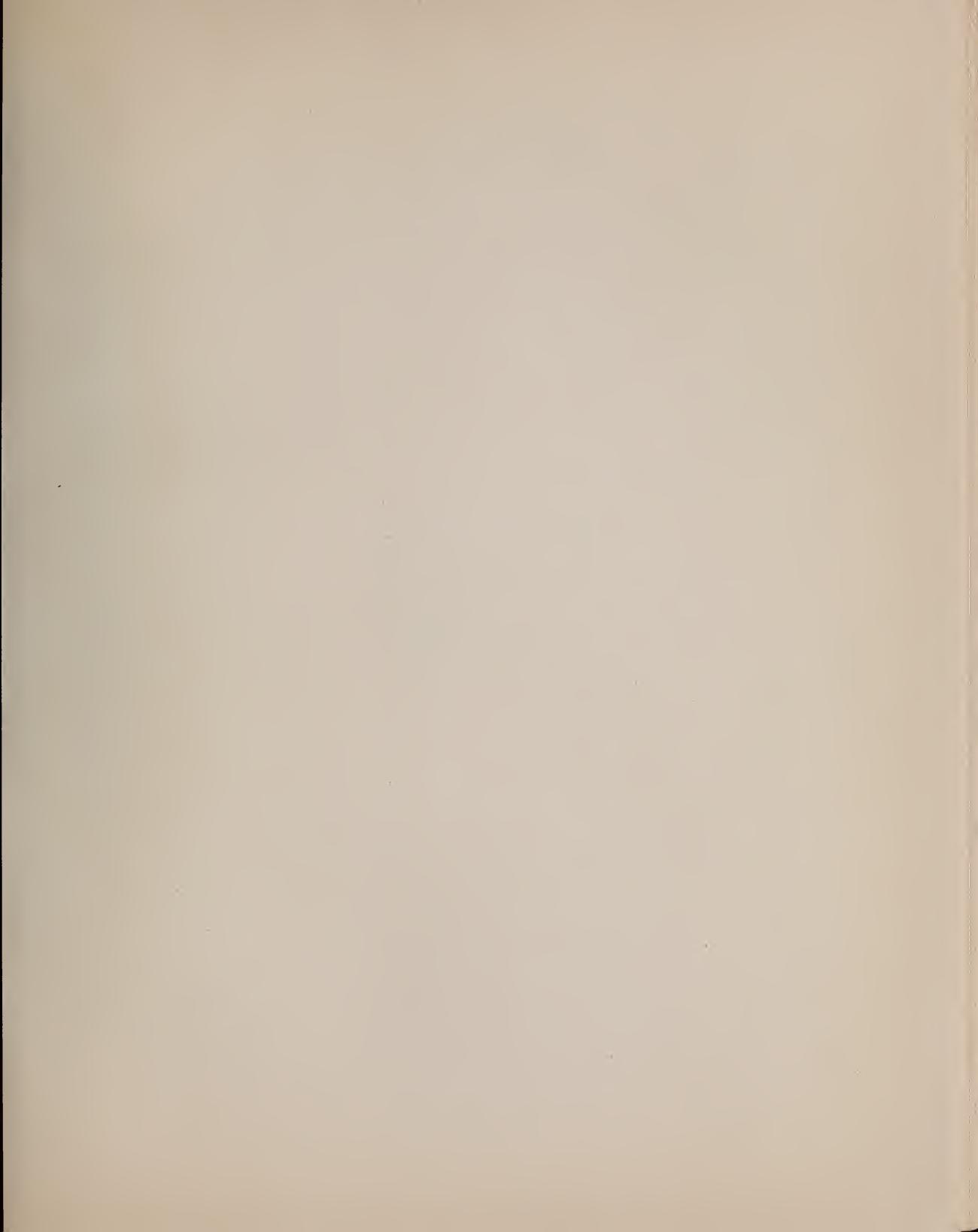
MOTTO FOR JULY:

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."—
2 Timothy ii:15.

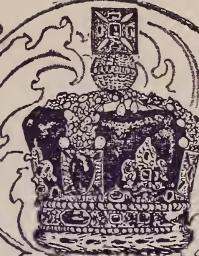
JULY BIRTHSTONE—THE TURQUOISE.



Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea;
Cherubim and Seraphim falling down before
Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.







AUGUST

THE SARDONYX.

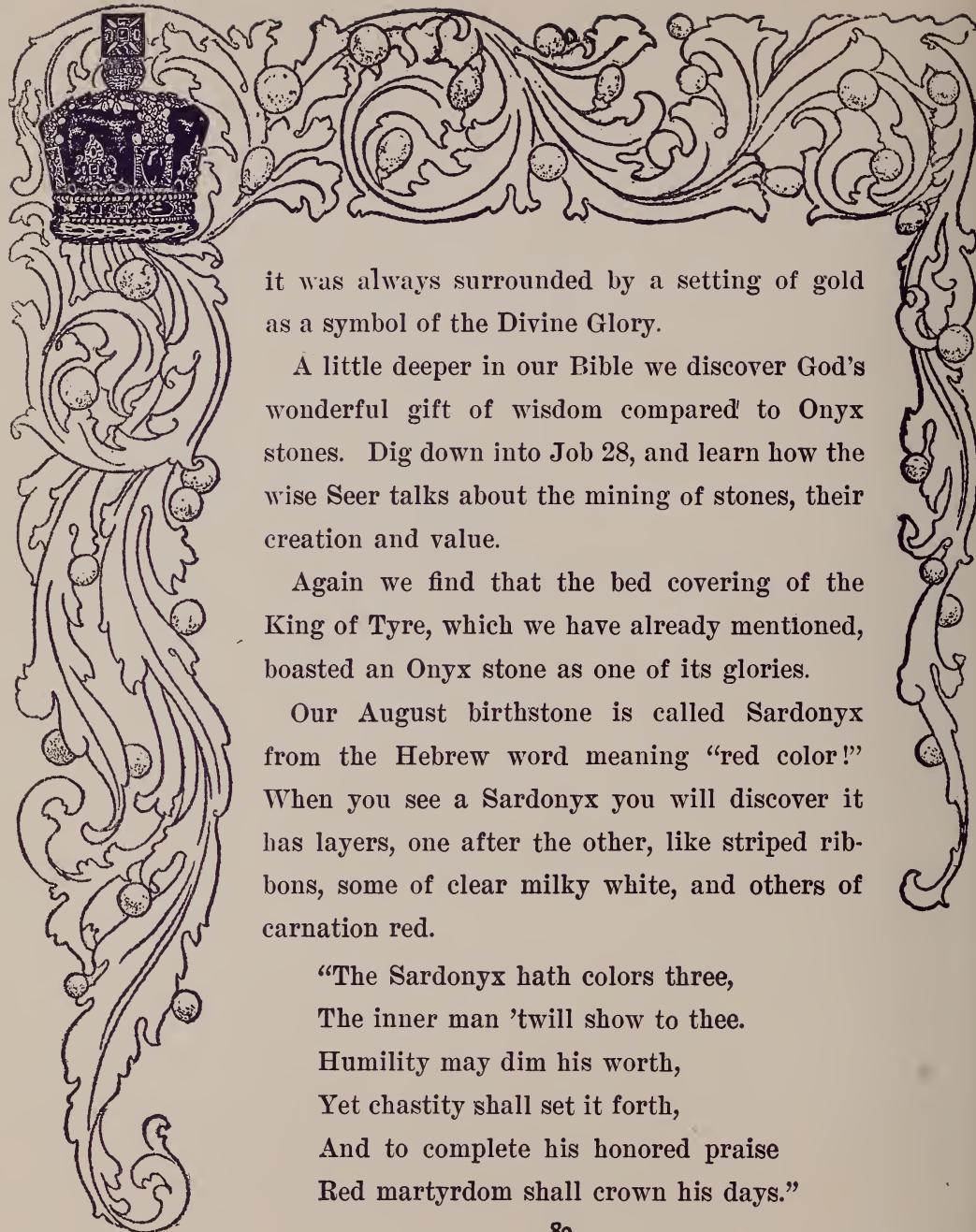
I HOPE there are many boys and girls with birthdays in August, because their birthstone is very interesting. The Sardonyx is the most beautiful variety of the celebrated Onyx.

All through our Bible mine we come across veins of this stone. It is the very first precious stone spoken of in our Bible.

More than that, it has the unique distinction of a birthplace in the Garden of Eden.

You may dig that out for yourselves from the second chapter of Genesis.

It had also the great honor of being chosen by God to bear the names of the children of Israel on the shoulders of the High Priest in his sacred robe of office. Many times the people were specially told to bring Onyx stones for the beautifying of the Tabernacle. Among the Jews



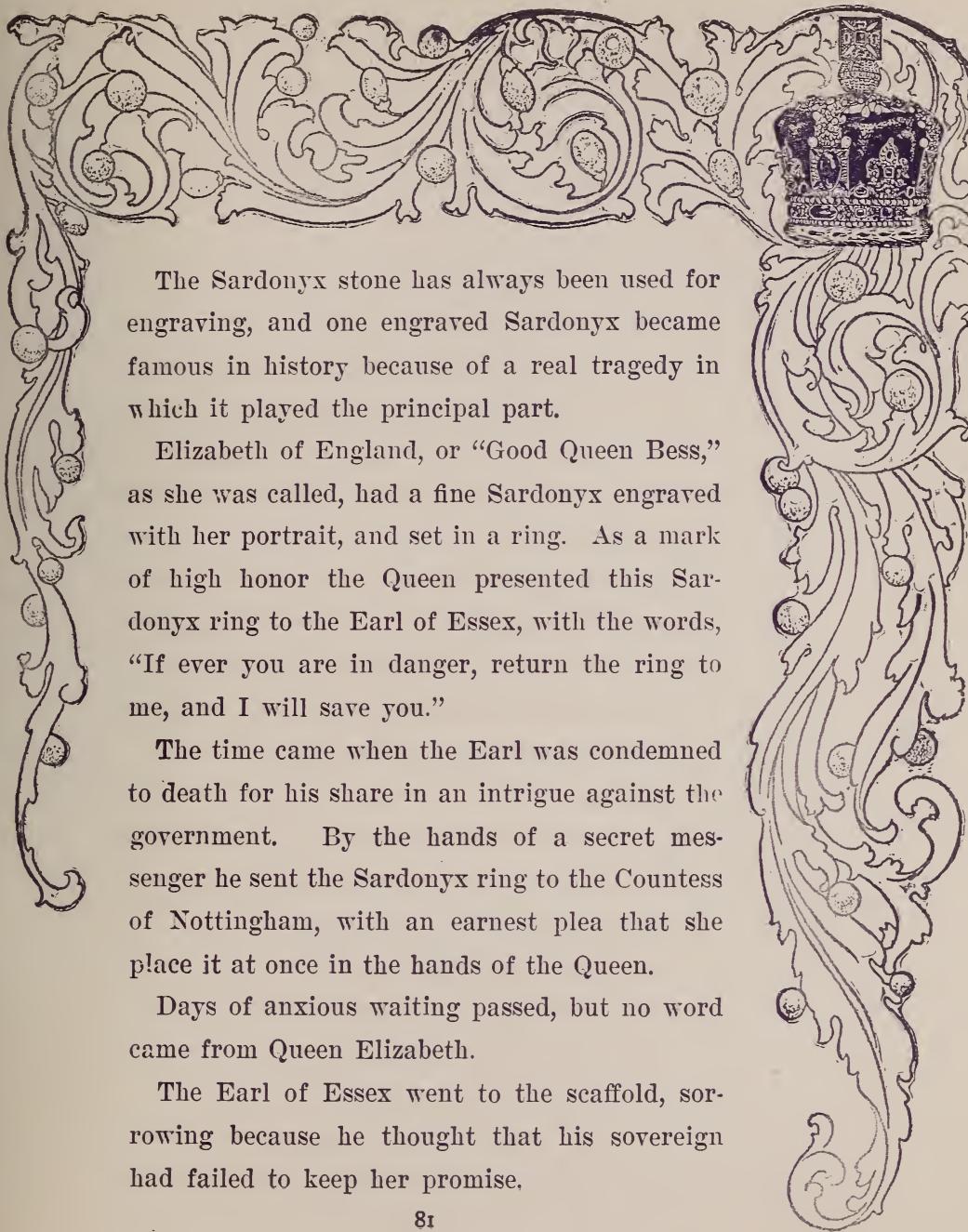
it was always surrounded by a setting of gold as a symbol of the Divine Glory.

A little deeper in our Bible we discover God's wonderful gift of wisdom compared to Onyx stones. Dig down into Job 28, and learn how the wise Seer talks about the mining of stones, their creation and value.

Again we find that the bed covering of the King of Tyre, which we have already mentioned, boasted an Onyx stone as one of its glories.

Our August birthstone is called Sardonyx from the Hebrew word meaning "red color!" When you see a Sardonyx you will discover it has layers, one after the other, like striped ribbons, some of clear milky white, and others of carnation red.

"The Sardonyx hath colors three,
The inner man 'twill show to thee.
Humility may dim his worth,
Yet chastity shall set it forth,
And to complete his honored praise
Red martyrdom shall crown his days."



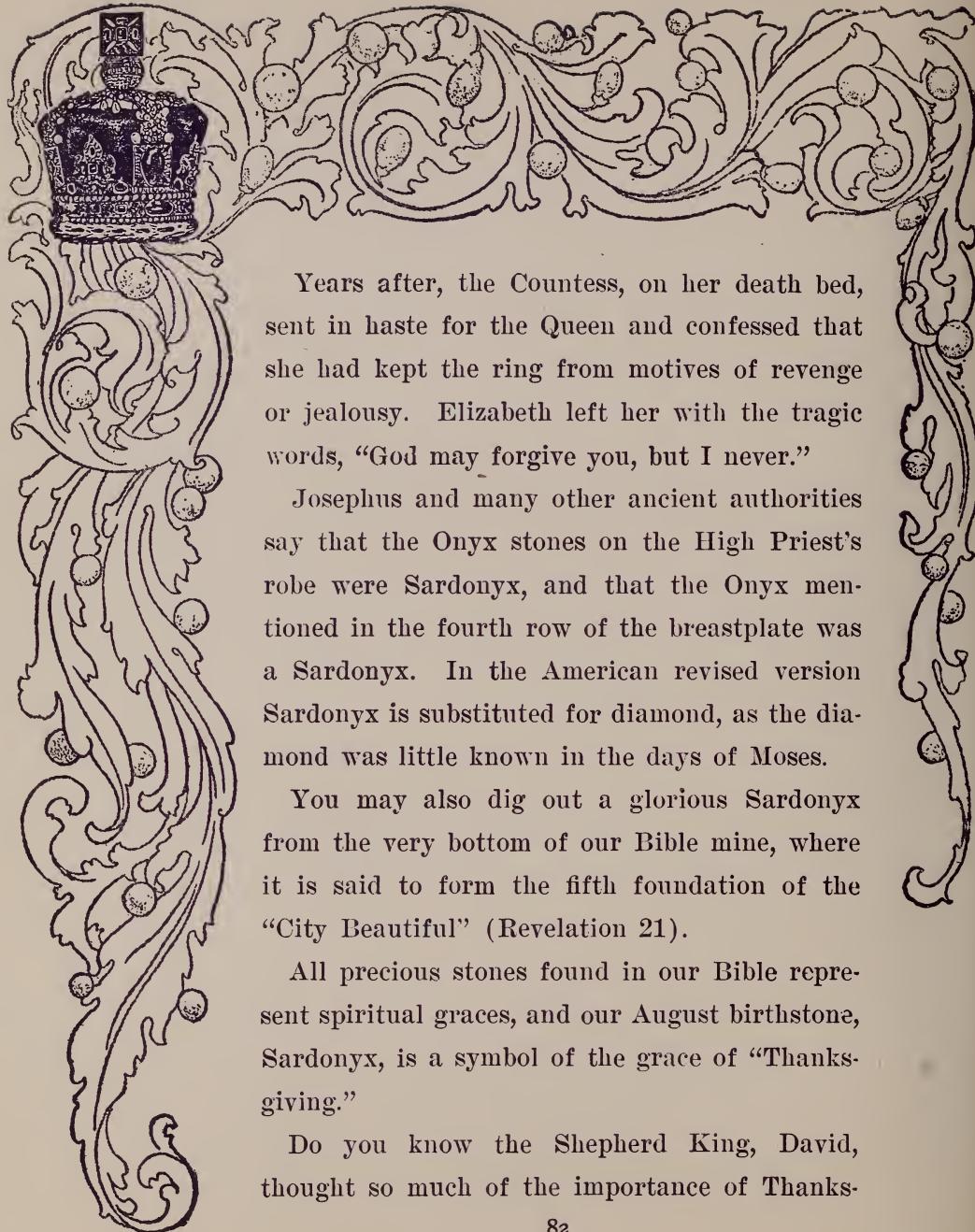
The Sardonyx stone has always been used for engraving, and one engraved Sardonyx became famous in history because of a real tragedy in which it played the principal part.

Elizabeth of England, or "Good Queen Bess," as she was called, had a fine Sardonyx engraved with her portrait, and set in a ring. As a mark of high honor the Queen presented this Sardonyx ring to the Earl of Essex, with the words, "If ever you are in danger, return the ring to me, and I will save you."

The time came when the Earl was condemned to death for his share in an intrigue against the government. By the hands of a secret messenger he sent the Sardonyx ring to the Countess of Nottingham, with an earnest plea that she place it at once in the hands of the Queen.

Days of anxious waiting passed, but no word came from Queen Elizabeth.

The Earl of Essex went to the scaffold, sorrowing because he thought that his sovereign had failed to keep her promise.



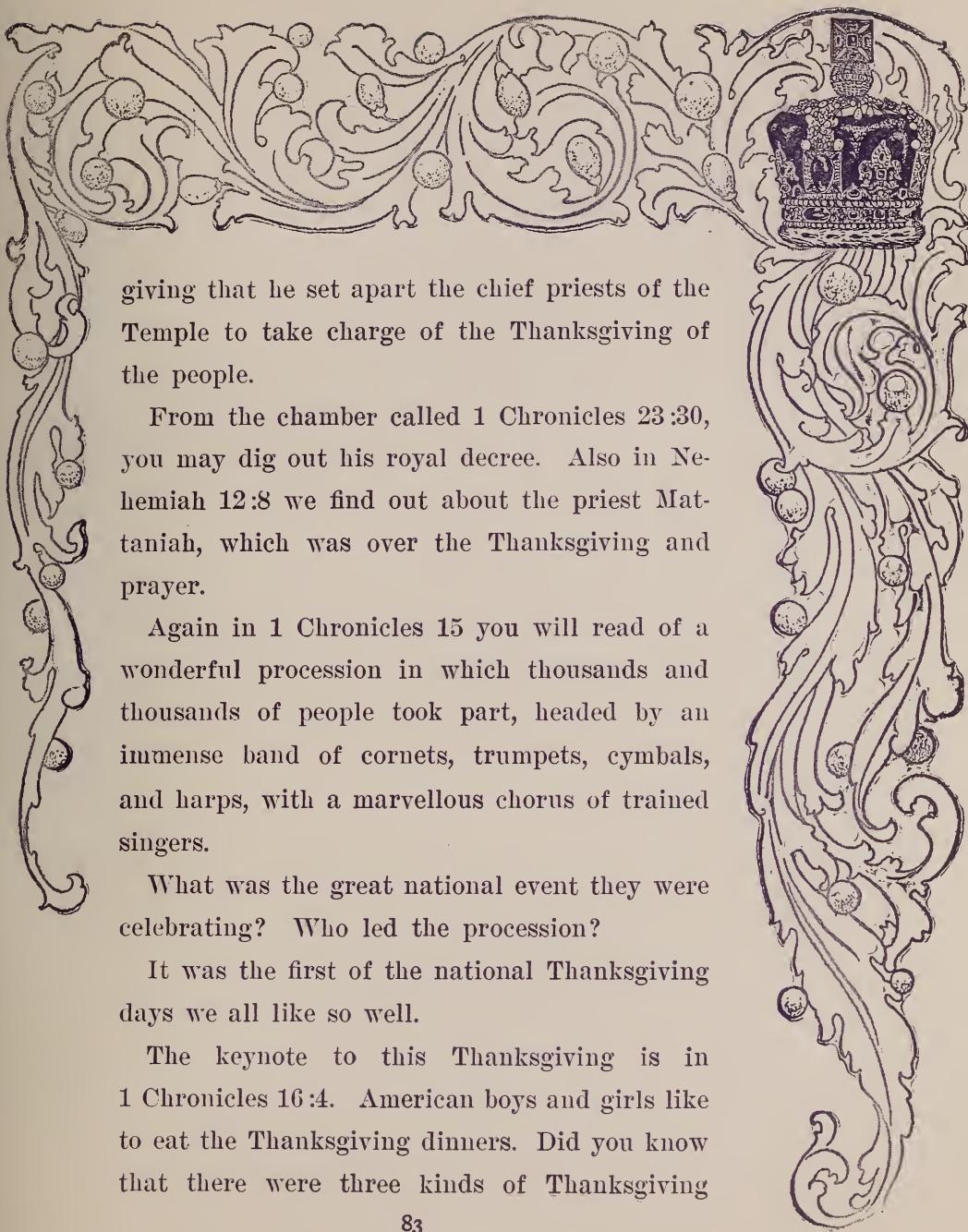
Years after, the Countess, on her death bed, sent in haste for the Queen and confessed that she had kept the ring from motives of revenge or jealousy. Elizabeth left her with the tragic words, "God may forgive you, but I never."

Josephus and many other ancient authorities say that the Onyx stones on the High Priest's robe were Sardonyx, and that the Onyx mentioned in the fourth row of the breastplate was a Sardonyx. In the American revised version Sardonyx is substituted for diamond, as the diamond was little known in the days of Moses.

You may also dig out a glorious Sardonyx from the very bottom of our Bible mine, where it is said to form the fifth foundation of the "City Beautiful" (Revelation 21).

All precious stones found in our Bible represent spiritual graces, and our August birthstone, Sardonyx, is a symbol of the grace of "Thanksgiving."

Do you know the Shepherd King, David, thought so much of the importance of Thanks-



giving that he set apart the chief priests of the Temple to take charge of the Thanksgiving of the people.

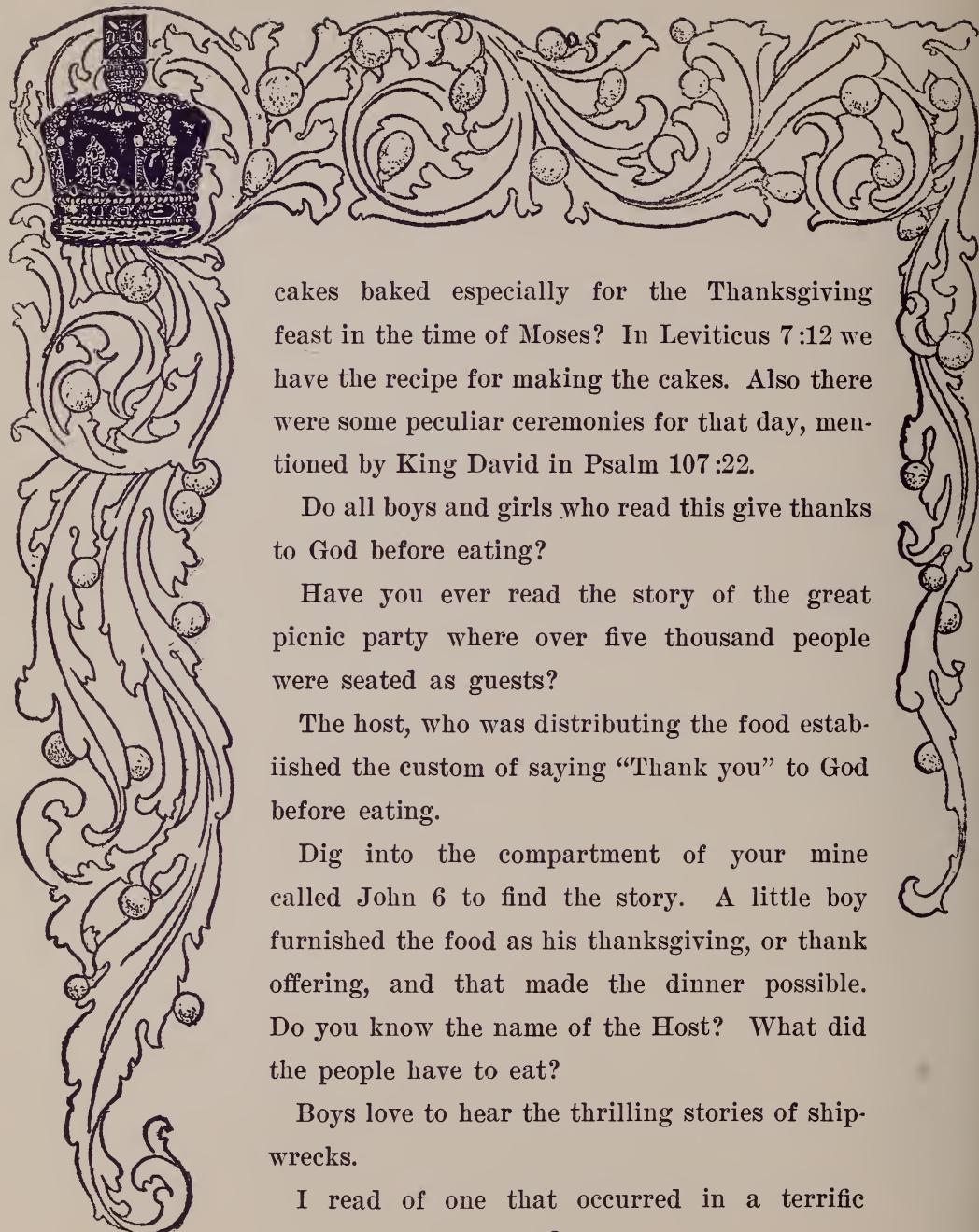
From the chamber called 1 Chronicles 23:30, you may dig out his royal decree. Also in Nehemiah 12:8 we find out about the priest Mattaniah, which was over the Thanksgiving and prayer.

Again in 1 Chronicles 15 you will read of a wonderful procession in which thousands and thousands of people took part, headed by an immense band of cornets, trumpets, cymbals, and harps, with a marvellous chorus of trained singers.

What was the great national event they were celebrating? Who led the procession?

It was the first of the national Thanksgiving days we all like so well.

The keynote to this Thanksgiving is in 1 Chronicles 16:4. American boys and girls like to eat the Thanksgiving dinners. Did you know that there were three kinds of Thanksgiving



cakes baked especially for the Thanksgiving feast in the time of Moses? In Leviticus 7:12 we have the recipe for making the cakes. Also there were some peculiar ceremonies for that day, mentioned by King David in Psalm 107:22.

Do all boys and girls who read this give thanks to God before eating?

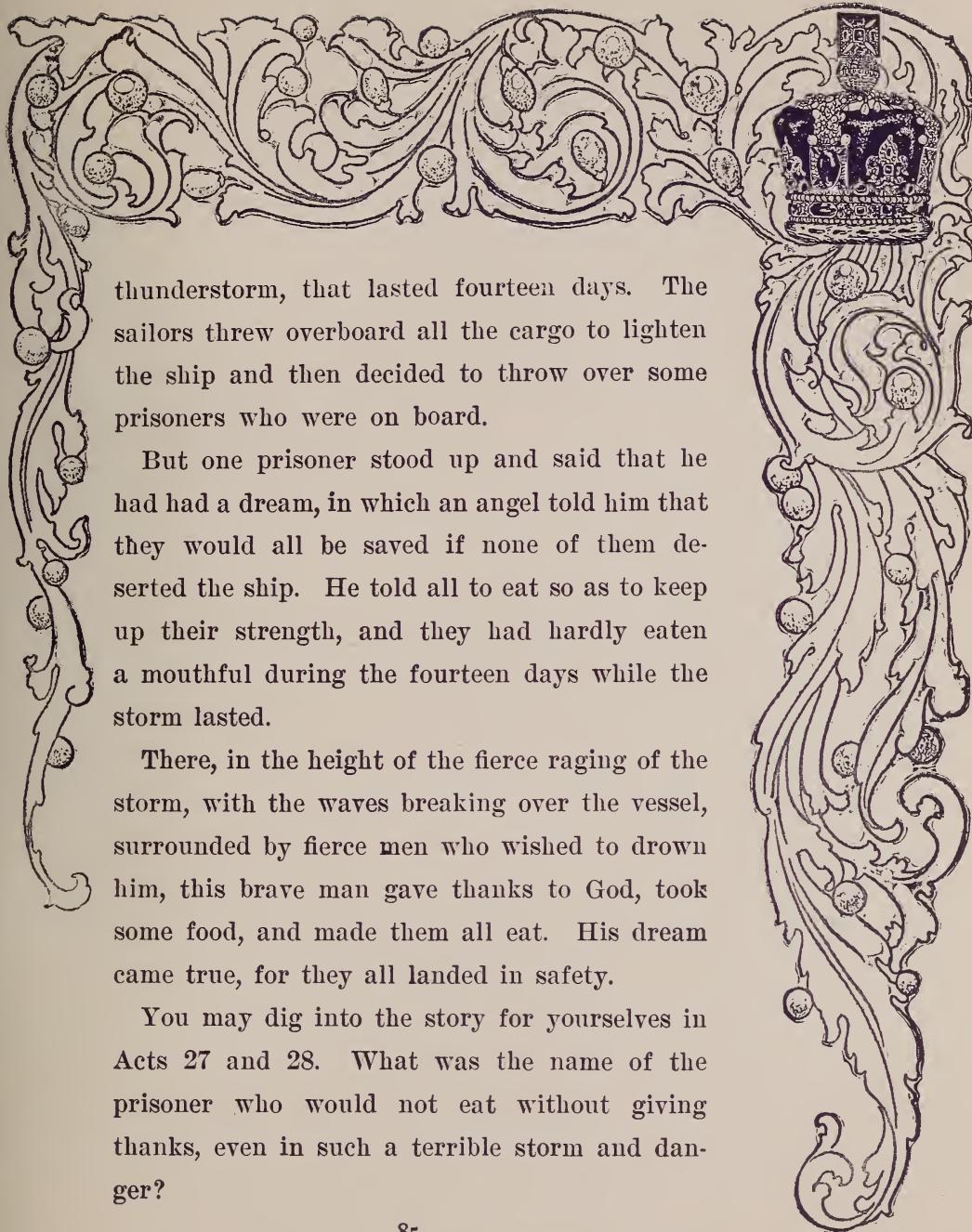
Have you ever read the story of the great picnic party where over five thousand people were seated as guests?

The host, who was distributing the food established the custom of saying "Thank you" to God before eating.

Dig into the compartment of your mine called John 6 to find the story. A little boy furnished the food as his thanksgiving, or thank offering, and that made the dinner possible. Do you know the name of the Host? What did the people have to eat?

Boys love to hear the thrilling stories of shipwrecks.

I read of one that occurred in a terrific

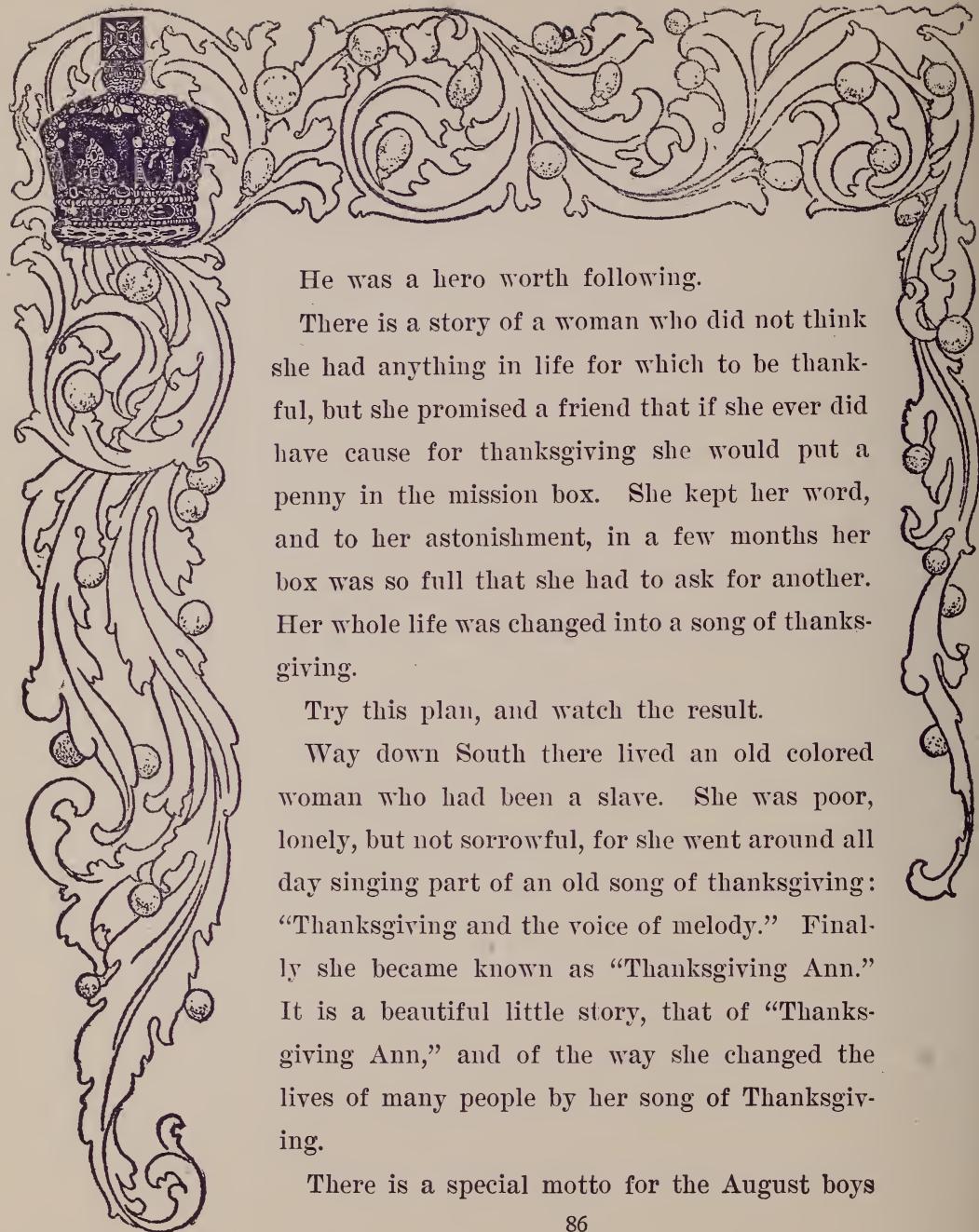


thunderstorm, that lasted fourteen days. The sailors threw overboard all the cargo to lighten the ship and then decided to throw over some prisoners who were on board.

But one prisoner stood up and said that he had had a dream, in which an angel told him that they would all be saved if none of them deserted the ship. He told all to eat so as to keep up their strength, and they had hardly eaten a mouthful during the fourteen days while the storm lasted.

There, in the height of the fierce raging of the storm, with the waves breaking over the vessel, surrounded by fierce men who wished to drown him, this brave man gave thanks to God, took some food, and made them all eat. His dream came true, for they all landed in safety.

You may dig into the story for yourselves in Acts 27 and 28. What was the name of the prisoner who would not eat without giving thanks, even in such a terrible storm and danger?



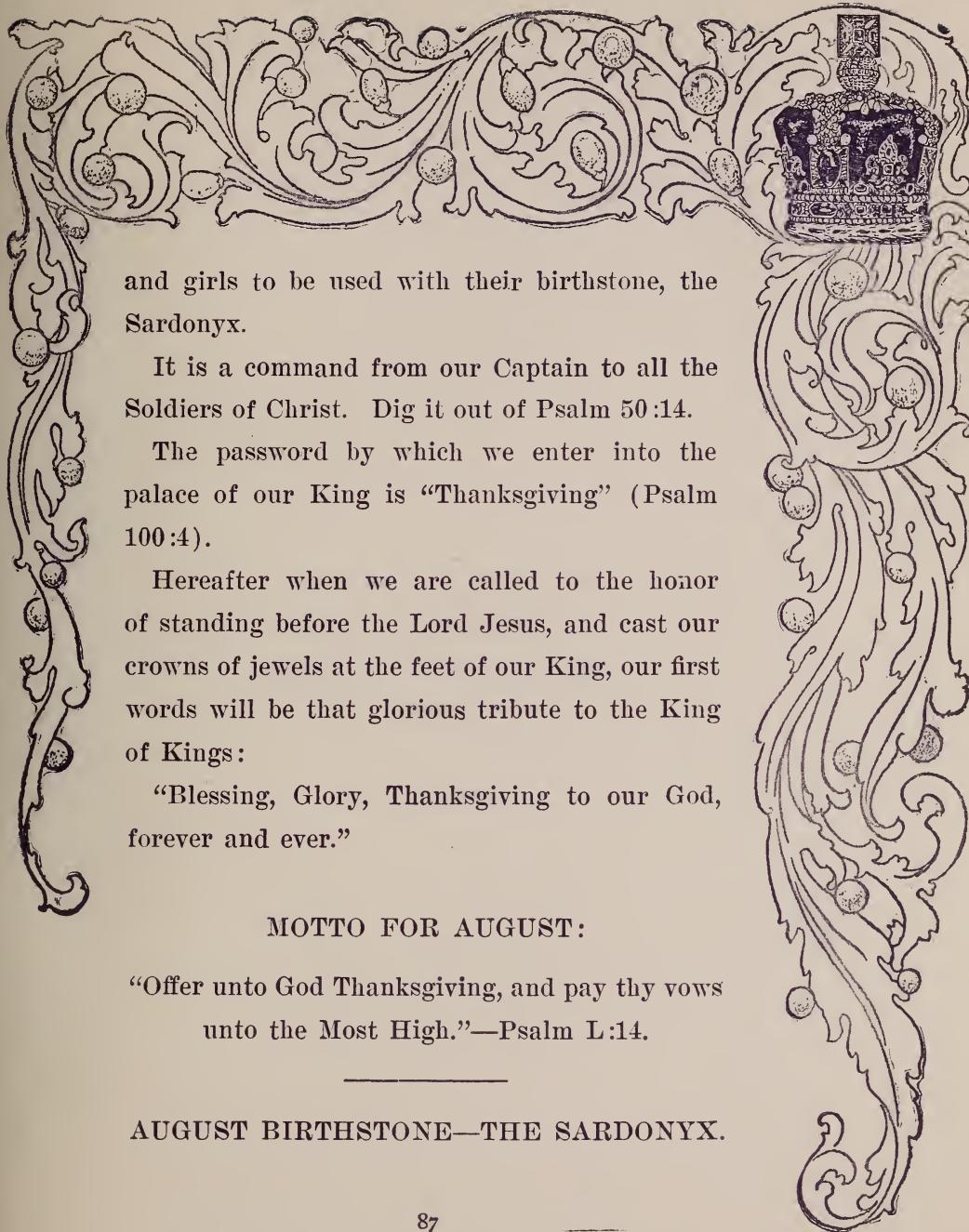
He was a hero worth following.

There is a story of a woman who did not think she had anything in life for which to be thankful, but she promised a friend that if she ever did have cause for thanksgiving she would put a penny in the mission box. She kept her word, and to her astonishment, in a few months her box was so full that she had to ask for another. Her whole life was changed into a song of thanksgiving.

Try this plan, and watch the result.

Way down South there lived an old colored woman who had been a slave. She was poor, lonely, but not sorrowful, for she went around all day singing part of an old song of thanksgiving: "Thanksgiving and the voice of melody." Finally she became known as "Thanksgiving Ann." It is a beautiful little story, that of "Thanksgiving Ann," and of the way she changed the lives of many people by her song of Thanksgiving.

There is a special motto for the August boys



and girls to be used with their birthstone, the Sardonyx.

It is a command from our Captain to all the Soldiers of Christ. Dig it out of Psalm 50:14.

The password by which we enter into the palace of our King is "Thanksgiving" (Psalm 100:4).

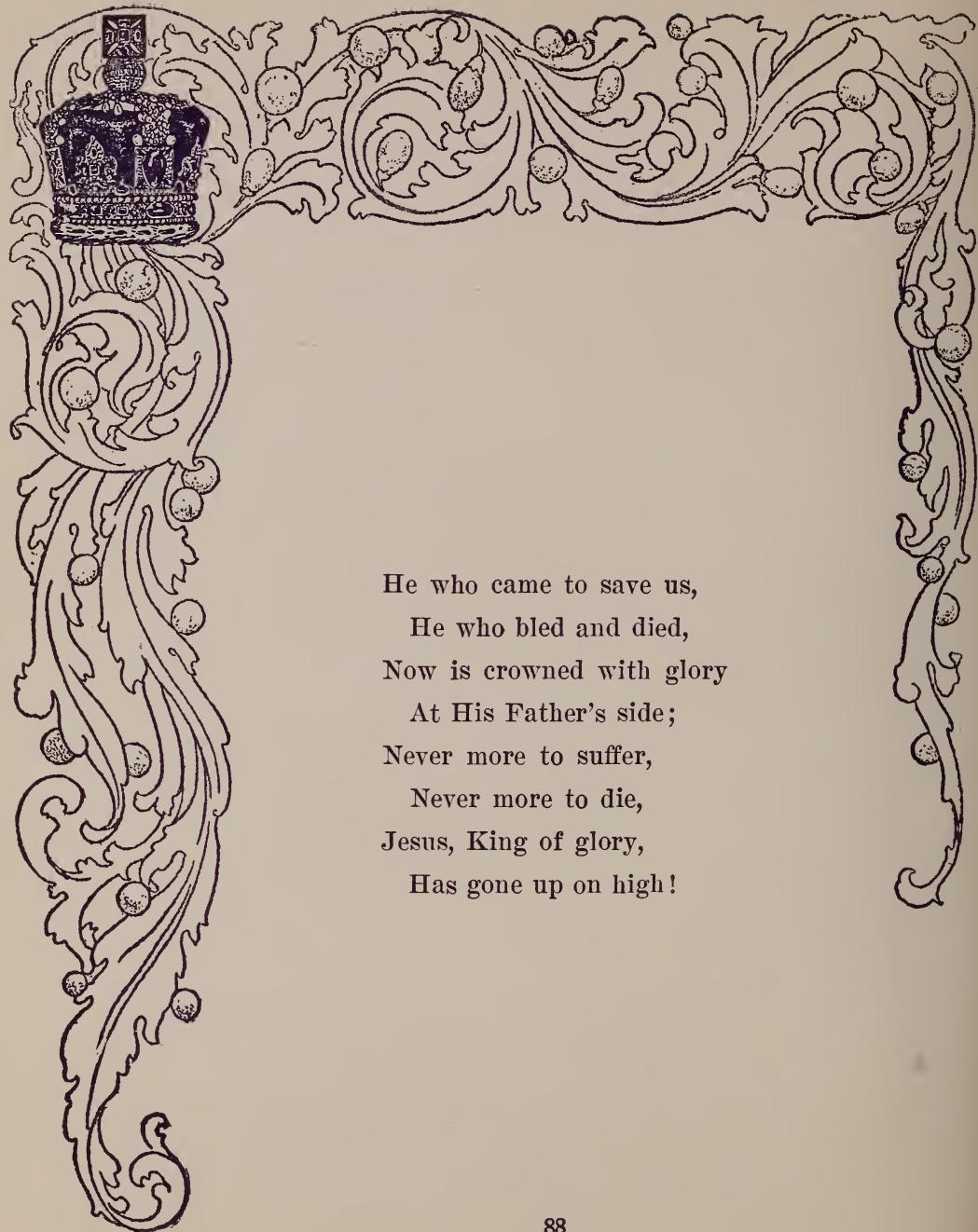
Hereafter when we are called to the honor of standing before the Lord Jesus, and cast our crowns of jewels at the feet of our King, our first words will be that glorious tribute to the King of Kings:

"Blessing, Glory, Thanksgiving to our God, forever and ever."

MOTTO FOR AUGUST:

"Offer unto God Thanksgiving, and pay thy vows unto the Most High."—Psalm L:14.

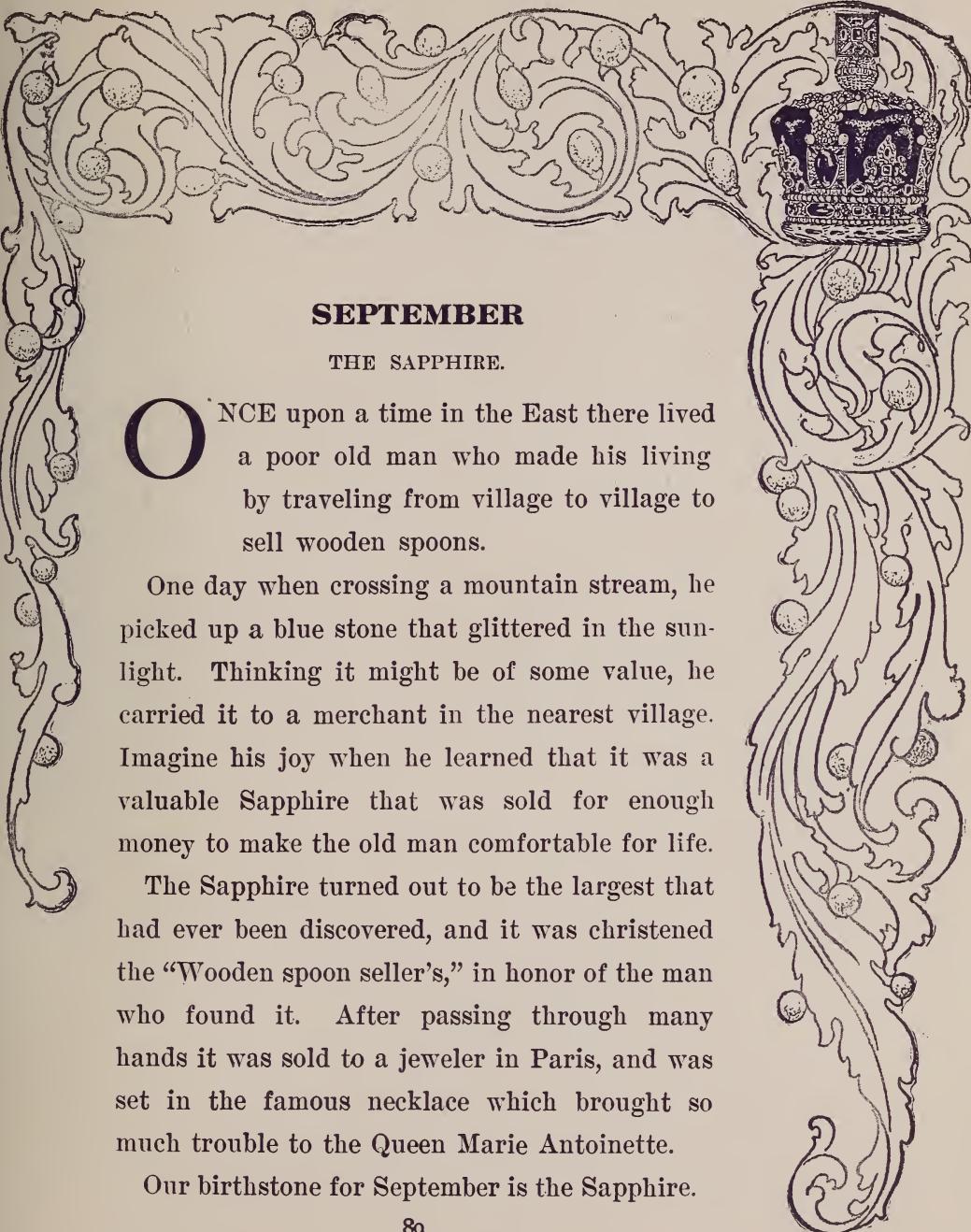
AUGUST BIRTHSTONE—THE SARDONYX.



He who came to save us,
He who bled and died,
Now is crowned with glory
At His Father's side;
Never more to suffer,
Never more to die,
Jesus, King of glory,
Has gone up on high!







SEPTEMBER

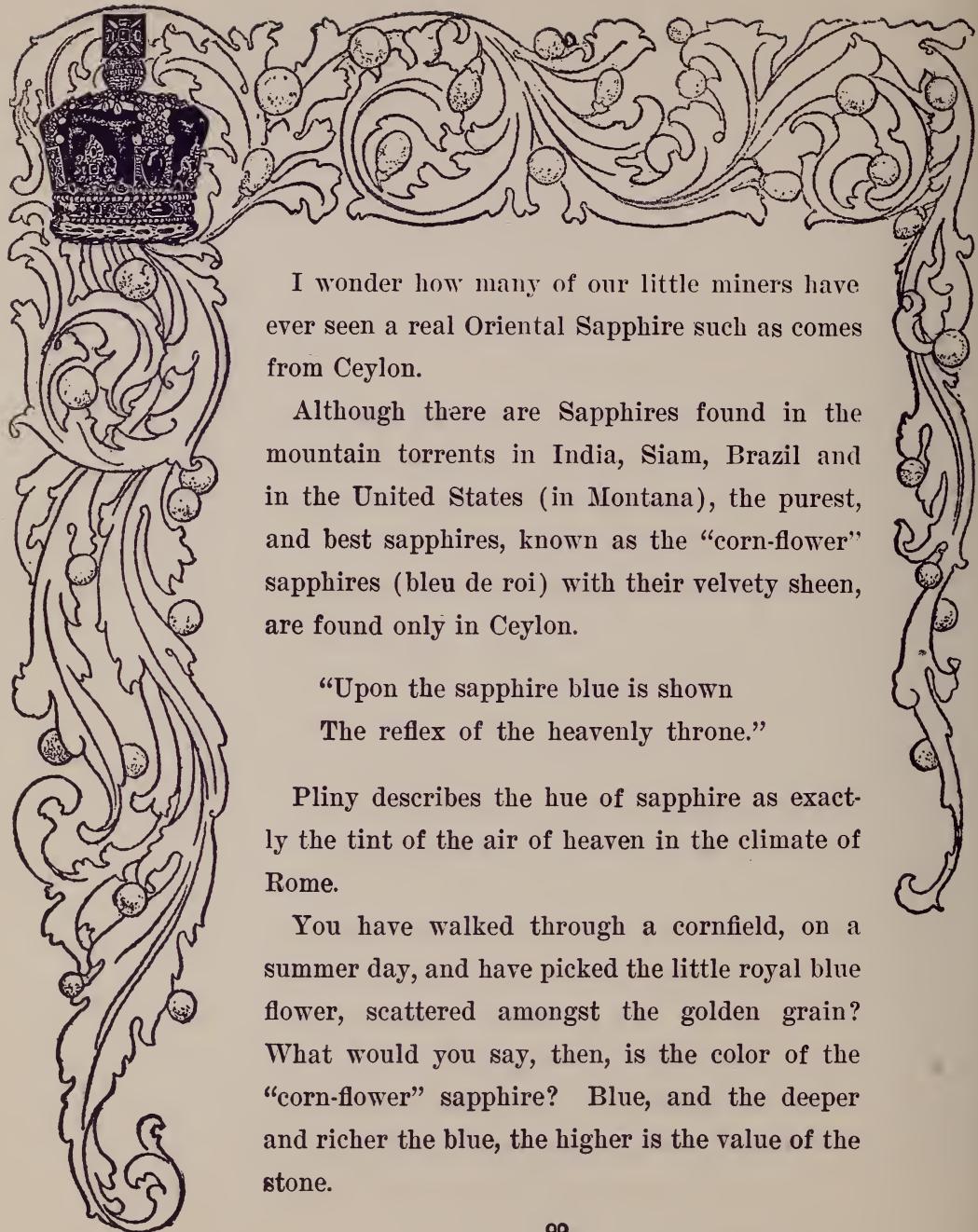
THE SAPPHIRE.

ONCE upon a time in the East there lived a poor old man who made his living by traveling from village to village to sell wooden spoons.

One day when crossing a mountain stream, he picked up a blue stone that glittered in the sunlight. Thinking it might be of some value, he carried it to a merchant in the nearest village. Imagine his joy when he learned that it was a valuable Sapphire that was sold for enough money to make the old man comfortable for life.

The Sapphire turned out to be the largest that had ever been discovered, and it was christened the "Wooden spoon seller's," in honor of the man who found it. After passing through many hands it was sold to a jeweler in Paris, and was set in the famous necklace which brought so much trouble to the Queen Marie Antoinette.

Our birthstone for September is the Sapphire.



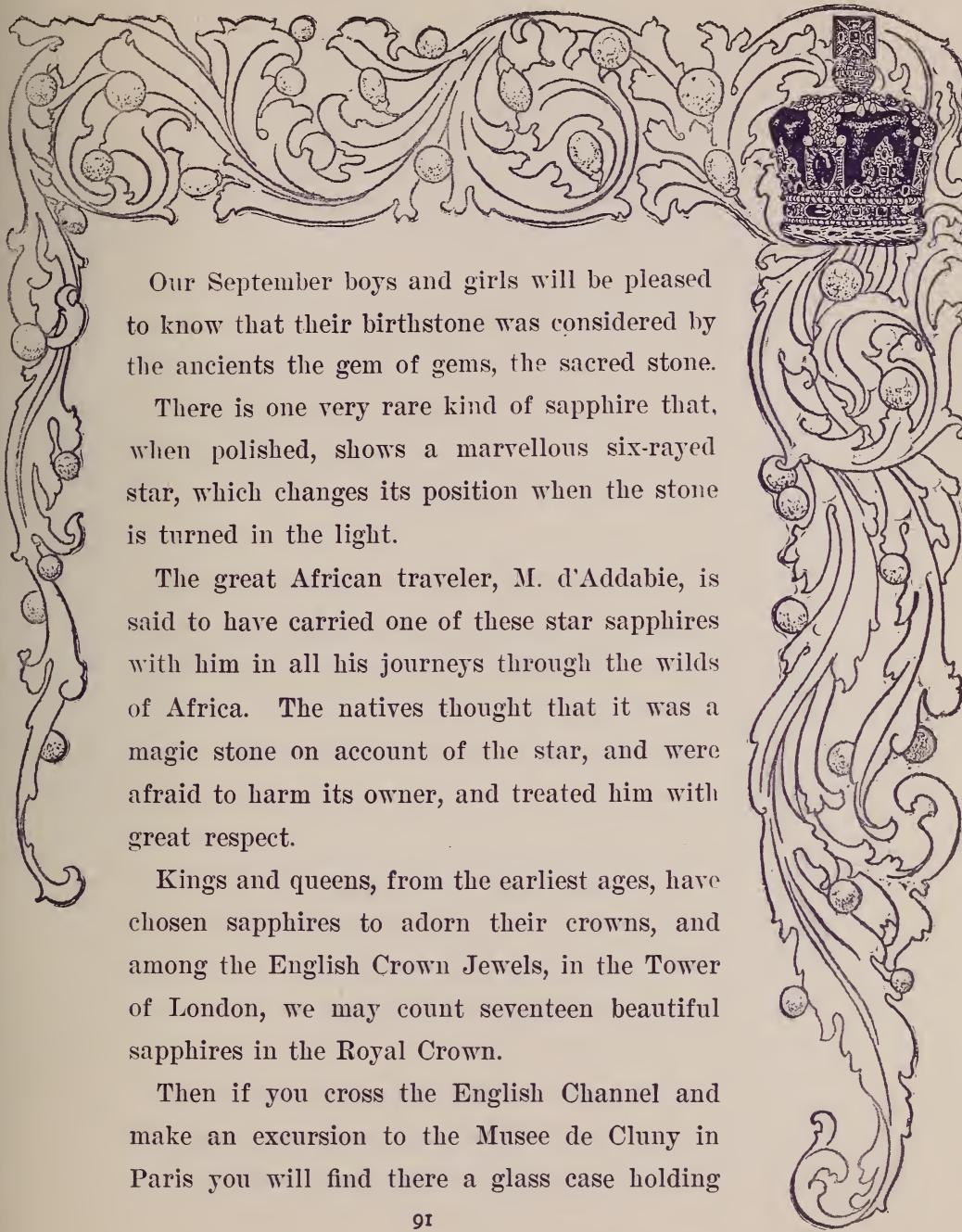
I wonder how many of our little miners have ever seen a real Oriental Sapphire such as comes from Ceylon.

Although there are Sapphires found in the mountain torrents in India, Siam, Brazil and in the United States (in Montana), the purest, and best sapphires, known as the "corn-flower" sapphires (*bleu de roi*) with their velvety sheen, are found only in Ceylon.

"Upon the sapphire blue is shown
The reflex of the heavenly throne."

Pliny describes the hue of sapphire as exactly the tint of the air of heaven in the climate of Rome.

You have walked through a cornfield, on a summer day, and have picked the little royal blue flower, scattered amongst the golden grain? What would you say, then, is the color of the "corn-flower" sapphire? Blue, and the deeper and richer the blue, the higher is the value of the stone.



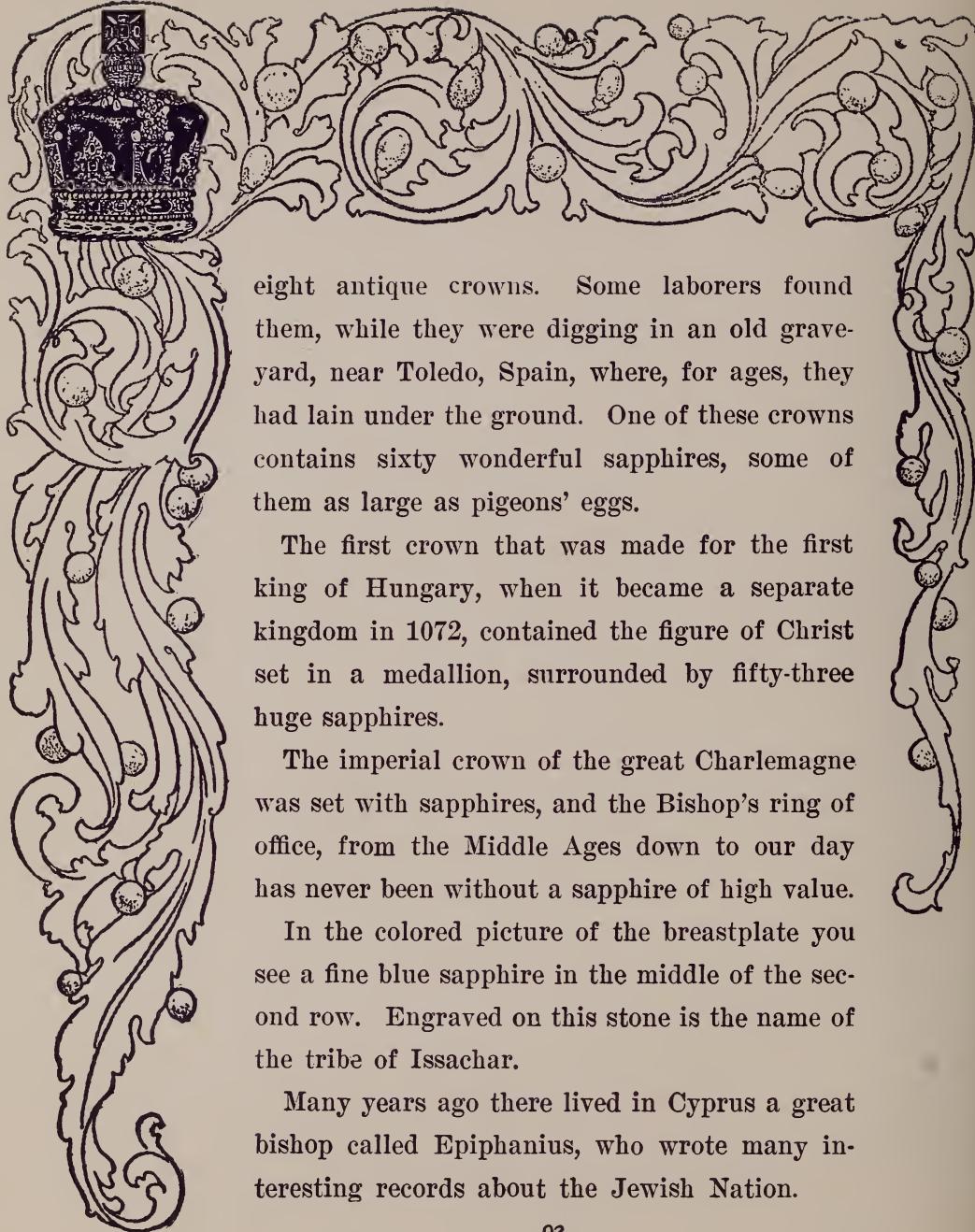
Our September boys and girls will be pleased to know that their birthstone was considered by the ancients the gem of gems, the sacred stone.

There is one very rare kind of sapphire that, when polished, shows a marvellous six-rayed star, which changes its position when the stone is turned in the light.

The great African traveler, M. d'Addabie, is said to have carried one of these star sapphires with him in all his journeys through the wilds of Africa. The natives thought that it was a magic stone on account of the star, and were afraid to harm its owner, and treated him with great respect.

Kings and queens, from the earliest ages, have chosen sapphires to adorn their crowns, and among the English Crown Jewels, in the Tower of London, we may count seventeen beautiful sapphires in the Royal Crown.

Then if you cross the English Channel and make an excursion to the Musee de Cluny in Paris you will find there a glass case holding



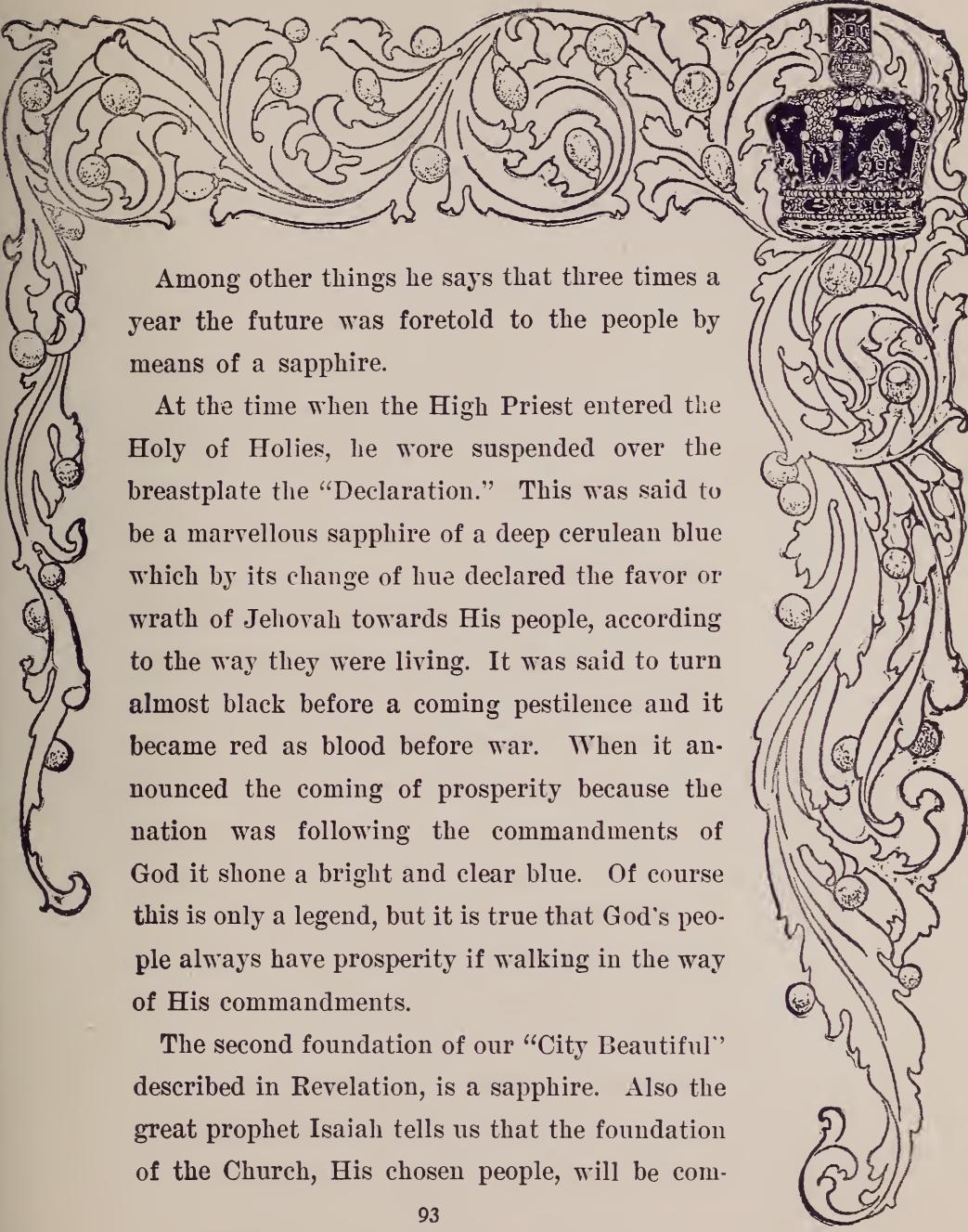
eight antique crowns. Some laborers found them, while they were digging in an old graveyard, near Toledo, Spain, where, for ages, they had lain under the ground. One of these crowns contains sixty wonderful sapphires, some of them as large as pigeons' eggs.

The first crown that was made for the first king of Hungary, when it became a separate kingdom in 1072, contained the figure of Christ set in a medallion, surrounded by fifty-three huge sapphires.

The imperial crown of the great Charlemagne was set with sapphires, and the Bishop's ring of office, from the Middle Ages down to our day has never been without a sapphire of high value.

In the colored picture of the breastplate you see a fine blue sapphire in the middle of the second row. Engraved on this stone is the name of the tribe of Issachar.

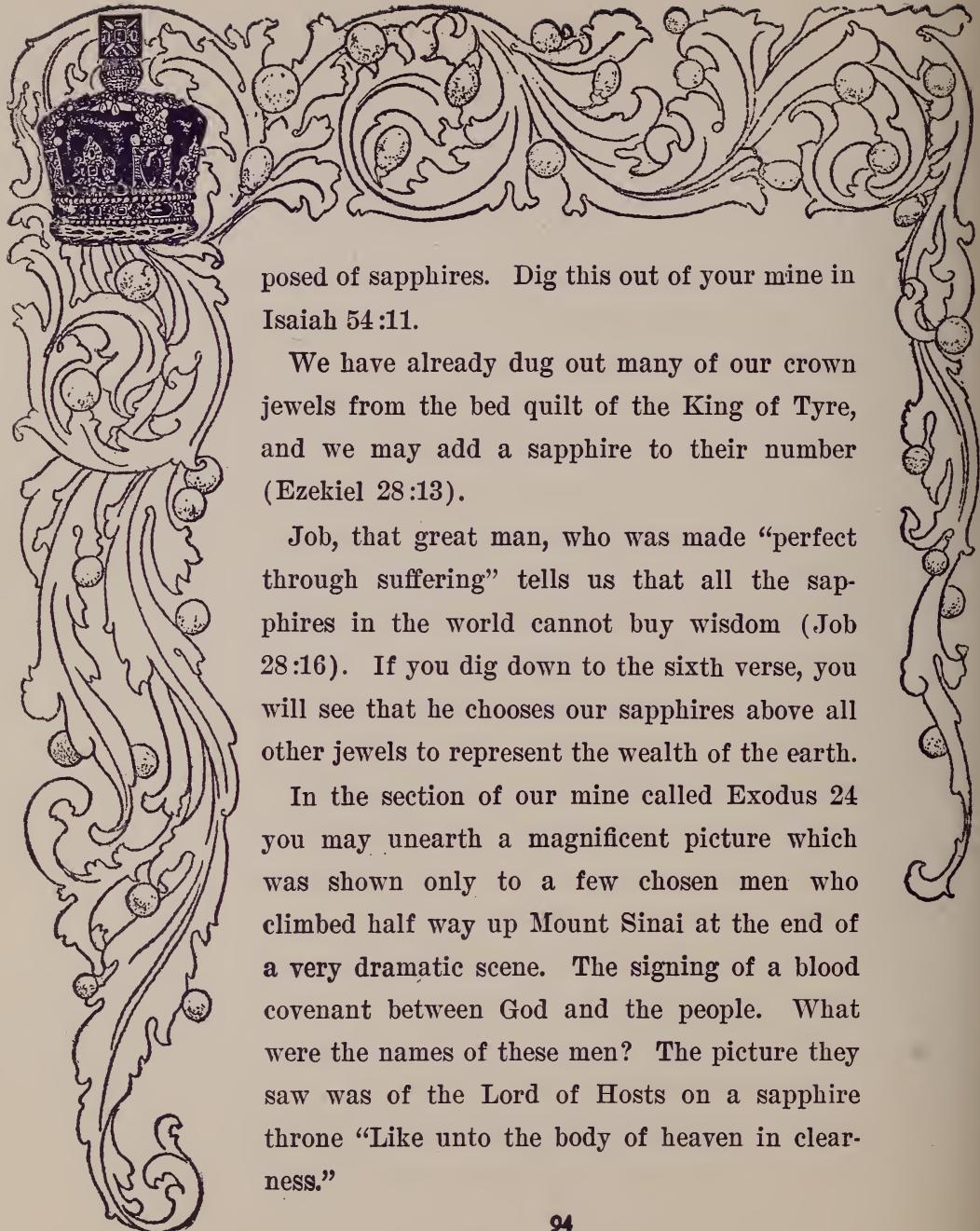
Many years ago there lived in Cyprus a great bishop called Epiphanius, who wrote many interesting records about the Jewish Nation.



Among other things he says that three times a year the future was foretold to the people by means of a sapphire.

At the time when the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies, he wore suspended over the breastplate the "Declaration." This was said to be a marvellous sapphire of a deep cerulean blue which by its change of hue declared the favor or wrath of Jehovah towards His people, according to the way they were living. It was said to turn almost black before a coming pestilence and it became red as blood before war. When it announced the coming of prosperity because the nation was following the commandments of God it shone a bright and clear blue. Of course this is only a legend, but it is true that God's people always have prosperity if walking in the way of His commandments.

The second foundation of our "City Beautiful" described in Revelation, is a sapphire. Also the great prophet Isaiah tells us that the foundation of the Church, His chosen people, will be com-

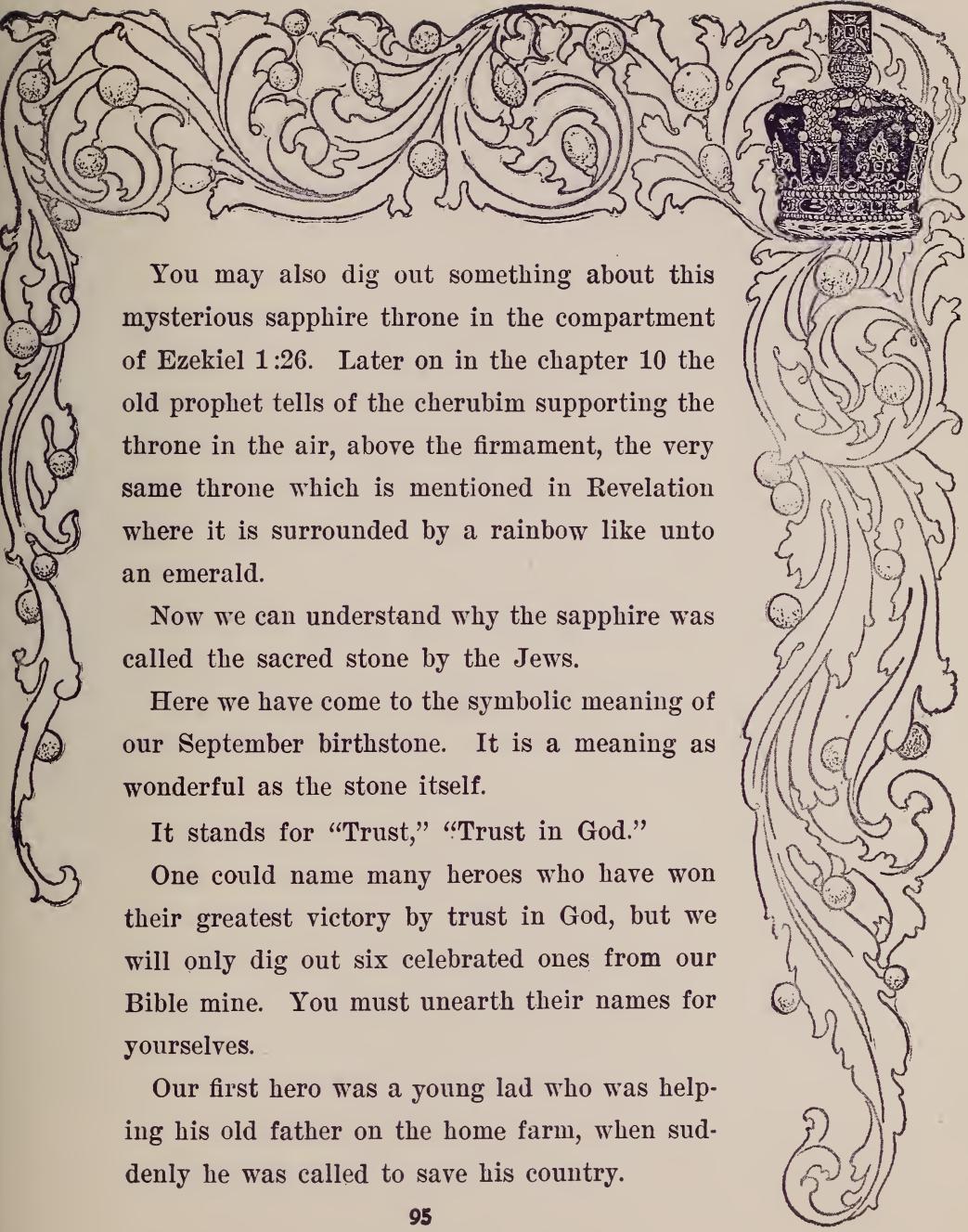


posed of sapphires. Dig this out of your mine in Isaiah 54:11.

We have already dug out many of our crown jewels from the bed quilt of the King of Tyre, and we may add a sapphire to their number (Ezekiel 28:13).

Job, that great man, who was made "perfect through suffering" tells us that all the sapphires in the world cannot buy wisdom (Job 28:16). If you dig down to the sixth verse, you will see that he chooses our sapphires above all other jewels to represent the wealth of the earth.

In the section of our mine called Exodus 24 you may unearth a magnificent picture which was shown only to a few chosen men who climbed half way up Mount Sinai at the end of a very dramatic scene. The signing of a blood covenant between God and the people. What were the names of these men? The picture they saw was of the Lord of Hosts on a sapphire throne "Like unto the body of heaven in clearness."



You may also dig out something about this mysterious sapphire throne in the compartment of Ezekiel 1:26. Later on in the chapter 10 the old prophet tells of the cherubim supporting the throne in the air, above the firmament, the very same throne which is mentioned in Revelation where it is surrounded by a rainbow like unto an emerald.

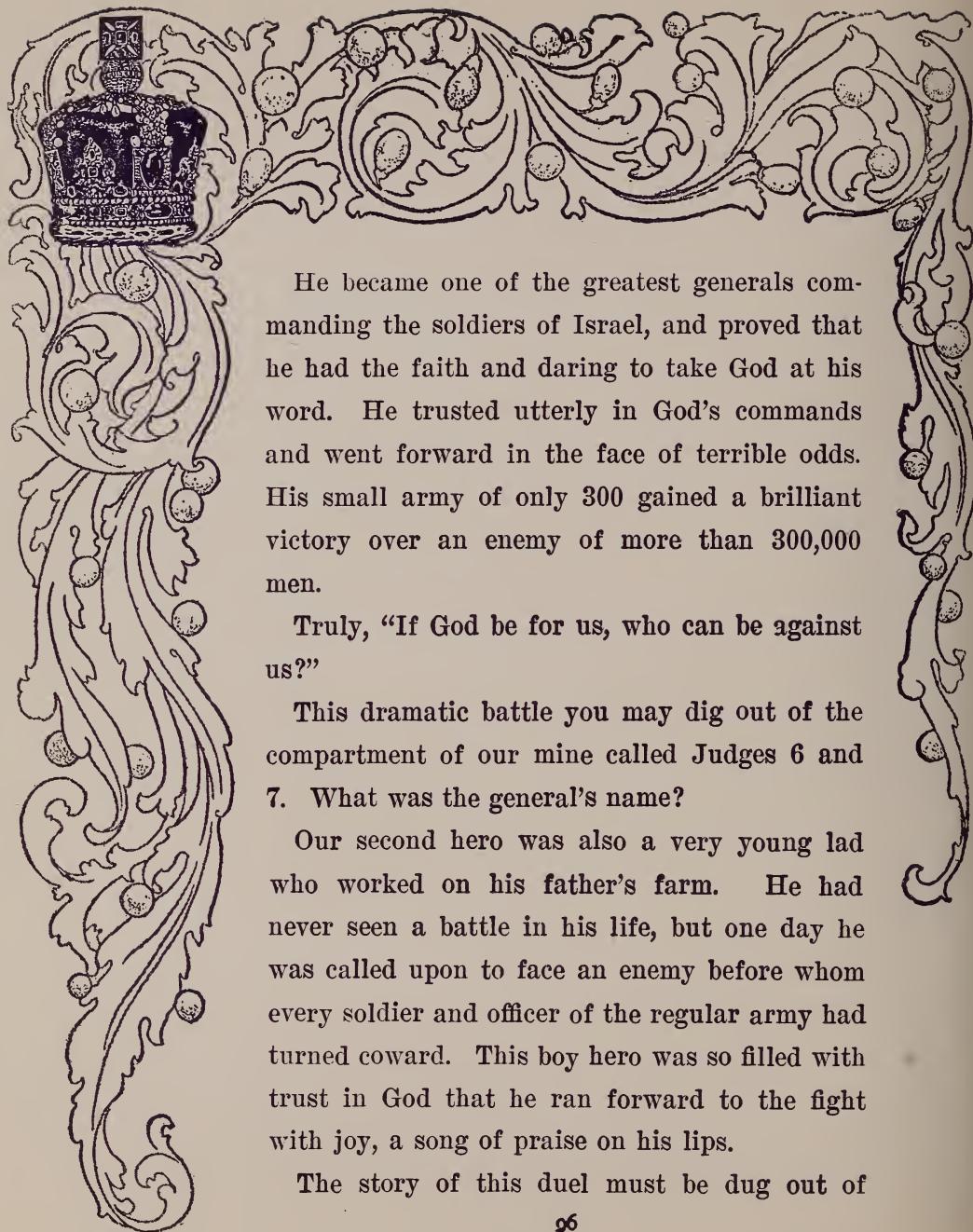
Now we can understand why the sapphire was called the sacred stone by the Jews.

Here we have come to the symbolic meaning of our September birthstone. It is a meaning as wonderful as the stone itself.

It stands for "Trust," "Trust in God."

One could name many heroes who have won their greatest victory by trust in God, but we will only dig out six celebrated ones from our Bible mine. You must unearth their names for yourselves.

Our first hero was a young lad who was helping his old father on the home farm, when suddenly he was called to save his country.



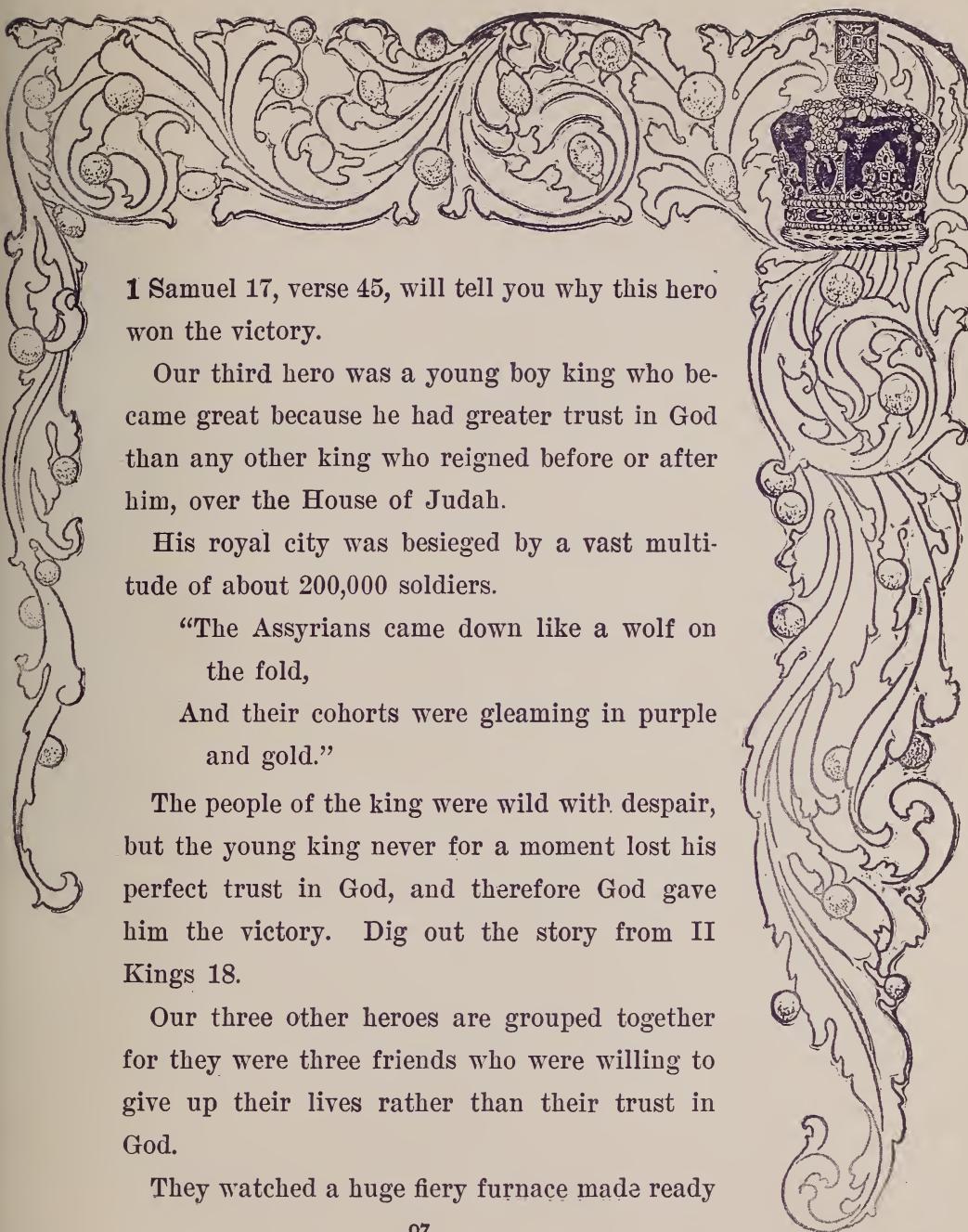
He became one of the greatest generals commanding the soldiers of Israel, and proved that he had the faith and daring to take God at his word. He trusted utterly in God's commands and went forward in the face of terrible odds. His small army of only 300 gained a brilliant victory over an enemy of more than 300,000 men.

Truly, "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

This dramatic battle you may dig out of the compartment of our mine called Judges 6 and 7. What was the general's name?

Our second hero was also a very young lad who worked on his father's farm. He had never seen a battle in his life, but one day he was called upon to face an enemy before whom every soldier and officer of the regular army had turned coward. This boy hero was so filled with trust in God that he ran forward to the fight with joy, a song of praise on his lips.

The story of this duel must be dug out of



1 Samuel 17, verse 45, will tell you why this hero won the victory.

Our third hero was a young boy king who became great because he had greater trust in God than any other king who reigned before or after him, over the House of Judah.

His royal city was besieged by a vast multitude of about 200,000 soldiers.

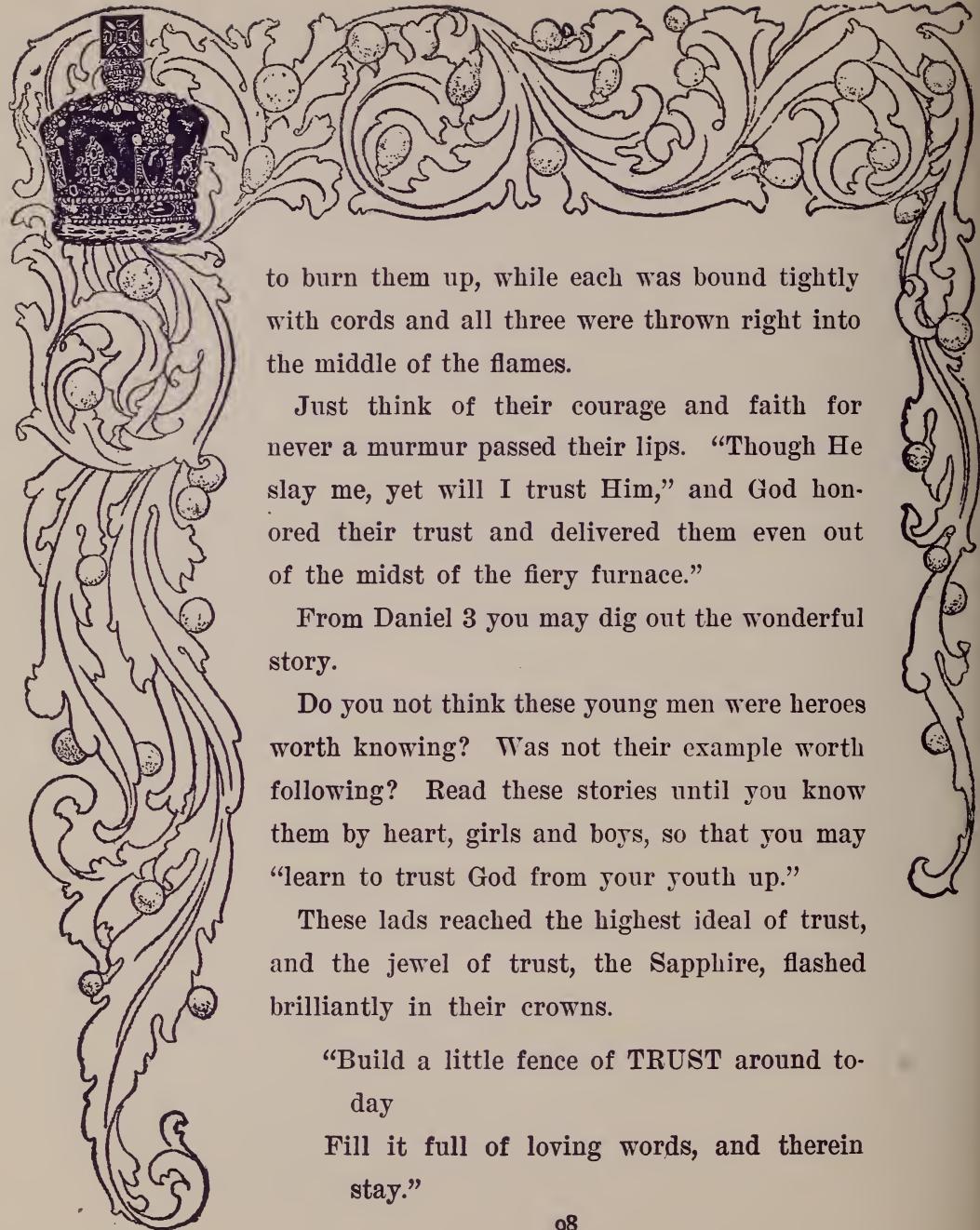
“The Assyrians came down like a wolf on the fold,

And their cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold.”

The people of the king were wild with despair, but the young king never for a moment lost his perfect trust in God, and therefore God gave him the victory. Dig out the story from II Kings 18.

Our three other heroes are grouped together for they were three friends who were willing to give up their lives rather than their trust in God.

They watched a huge fiery furnace made ready



to burn them up, while each was bound tightly with cords and all three were thrown right into the middle of the flames.

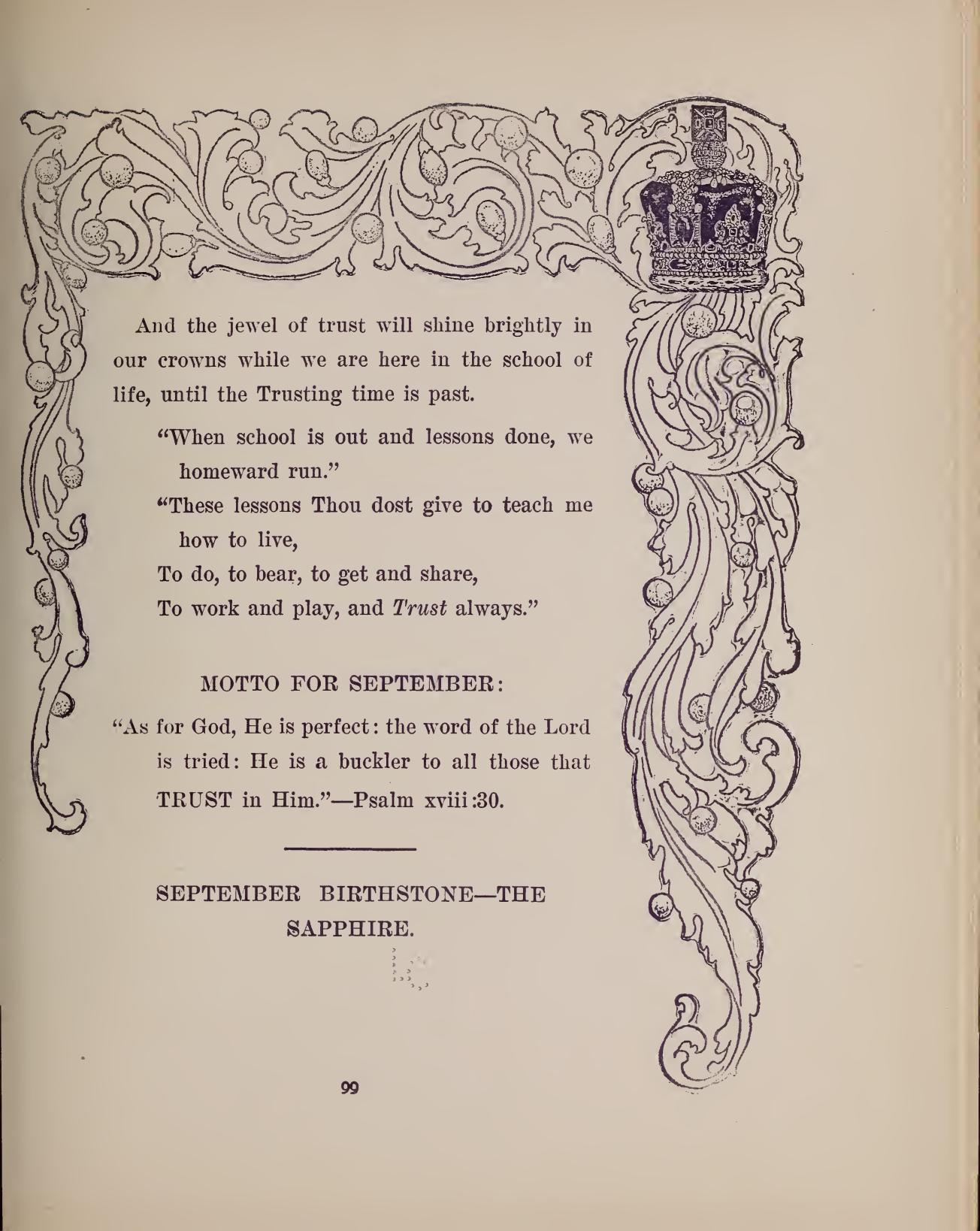
Just think of their courage and faith for never a murmur passed their lips. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him," and God honored their trust and delivered them even out of the midst of the fiery furnace."

From Daniel 3 you may dig out the wonderful story.

Do you not think these young men were heroes worth knowing? Was not their example worth following? Read these stories until you know them by heart, girls and boys, so that you may "learn to trust God from your youth up."

These lads reached the highest ideal of trust, and the jewel of trust, the Sapphire, flashed brilliantly in their crowns.

"Build a little fence of TRUST around to-day
Fill it full of loving words, and therein stay."



And the jewel of trust will shine brightly in our crowns while we are here in the school of life, until the Trusting time is past.

“When school is out and lessons done, we homeward run.”

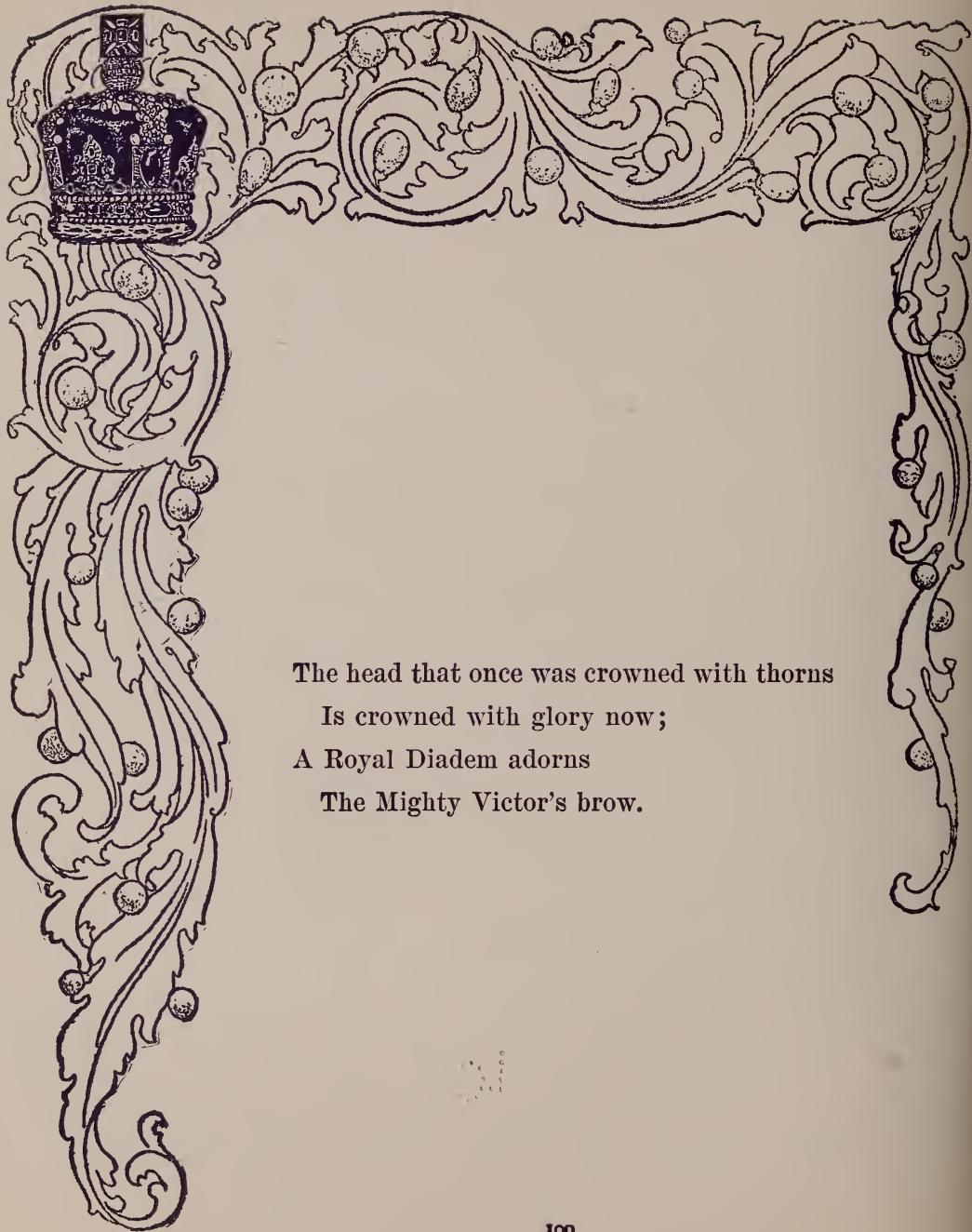
“These lessons Thou dost give to teach me how to live,

To do, to bear, to get and share,
To work and play, and *Trust* always.”

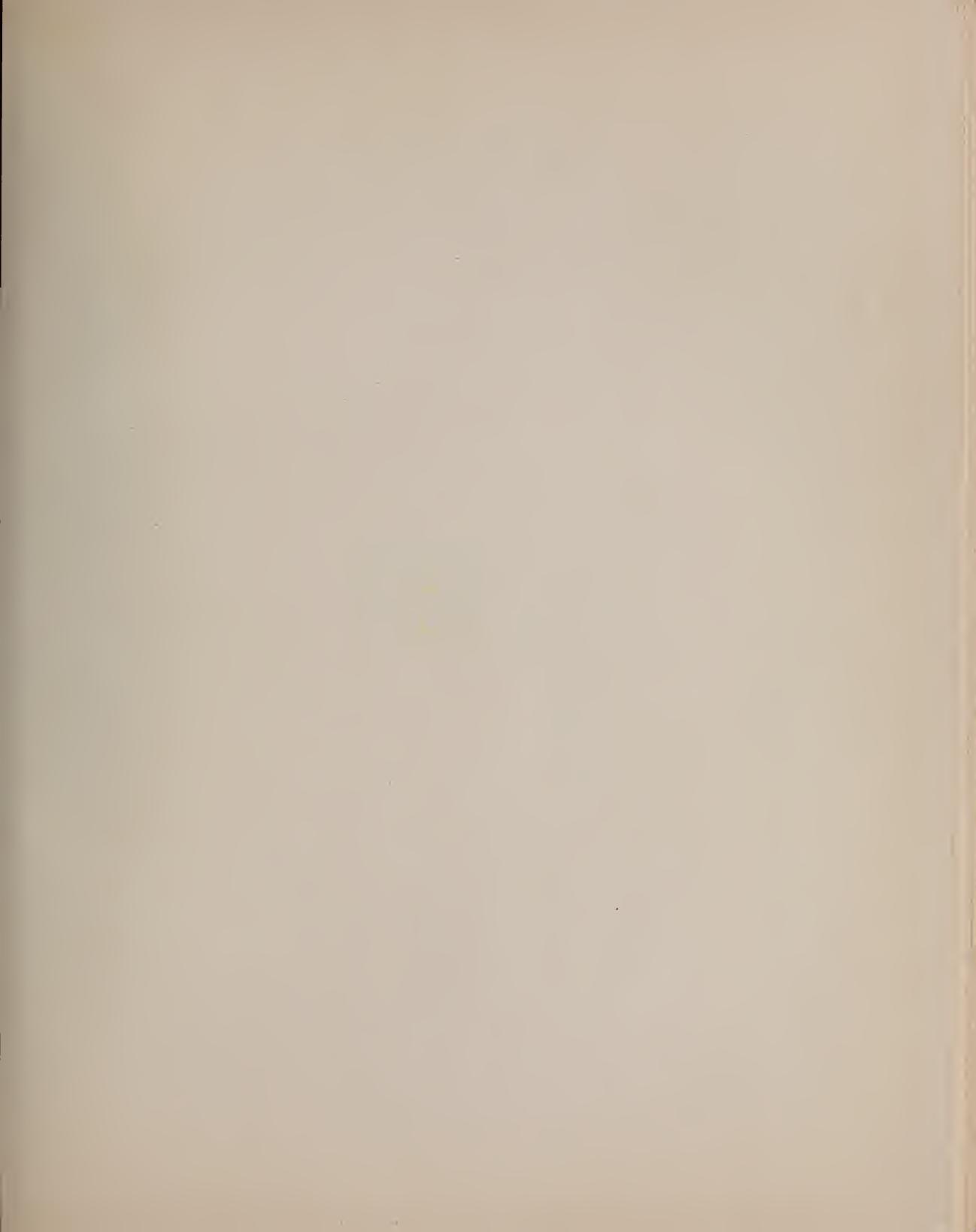
MOTTO FOR SEPTEMBER:

“As for God, He is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all those that TRUST in Him.”—Psalm xviii:30.

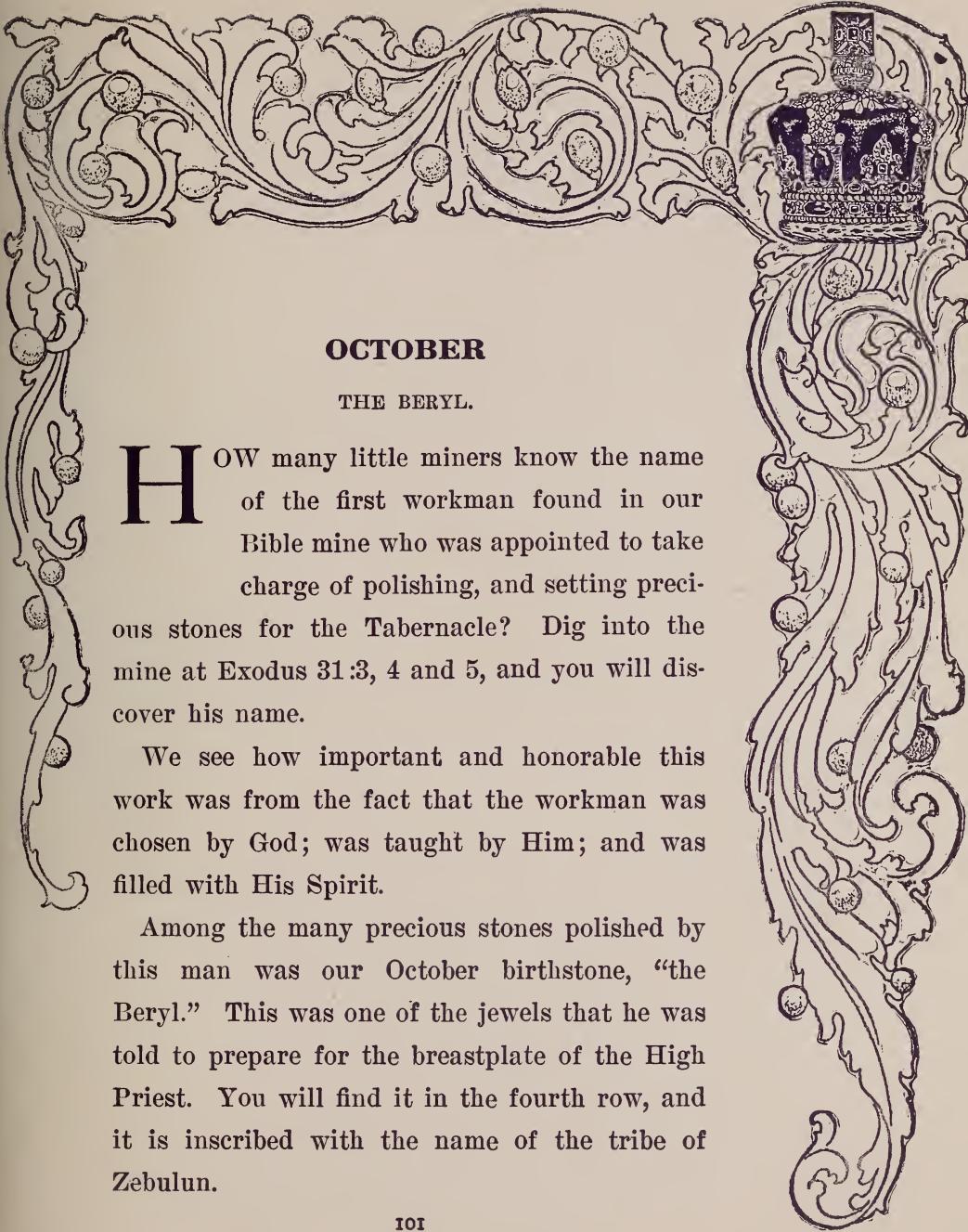
SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE—THE SAPPHIRE.



The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A Royal Diadem adorns
The Mighty Victor's brow.







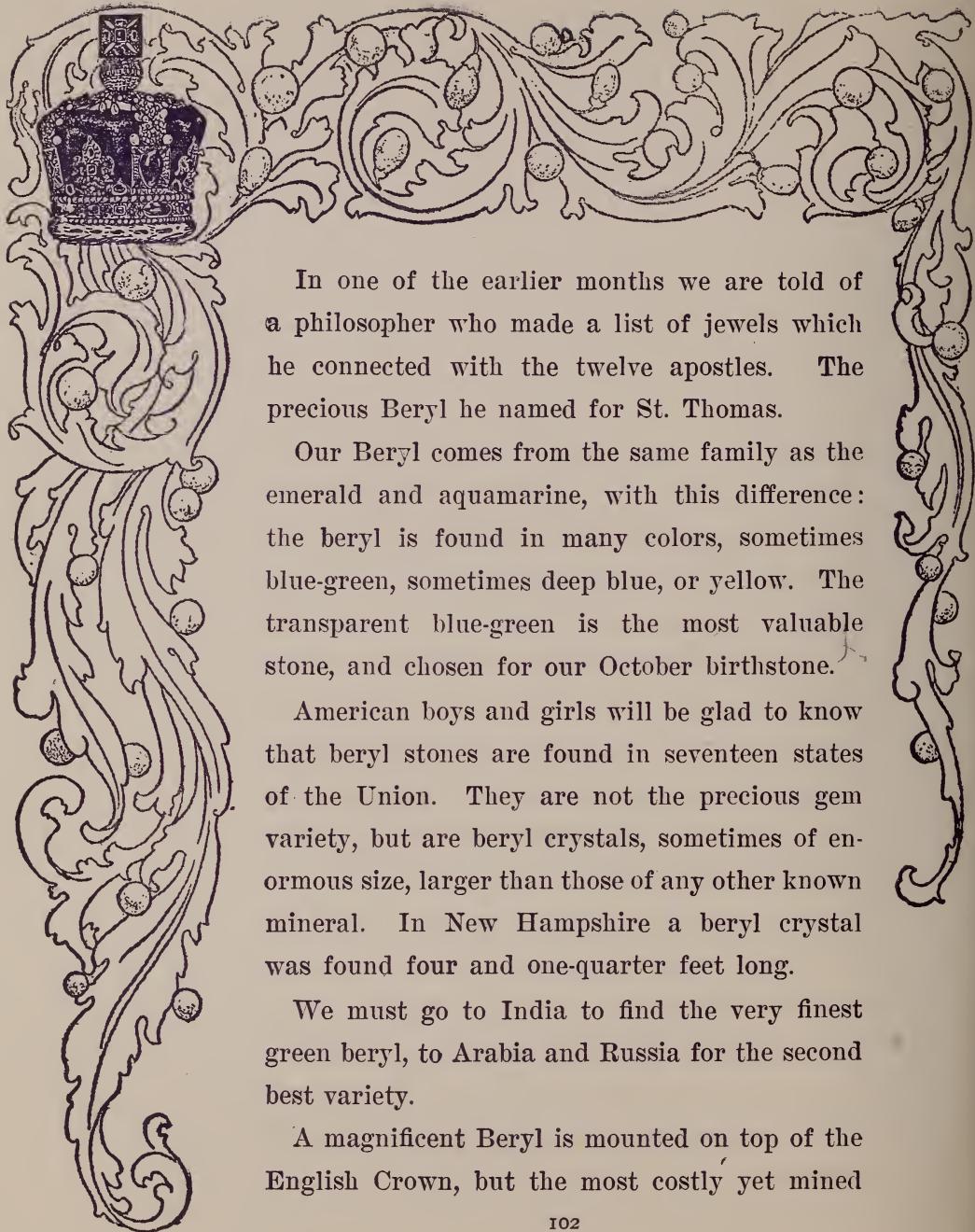
OCTOBER

THE BERYL.

HOW many little miners know the name of the first workman found in our Bible mine who was appointed to take charge of polishing, and setting precious stones for the Tabernacle? Dig into the mine at Exodus 31:3, 4 and 5, and you will discover his name.

We see how important and honorable this work was from the fact that the workman was chosen by God; was taught by Him; and was filled with His Spirit.

Among the many precious stones polished by this man was our October birthstone, "the Beryl." This was one of the jewels that he was told to prepare for the breastplate of the High Priest. You will find it in the fourth row, and it is inscribed with the name of the tribe of Zebulun.



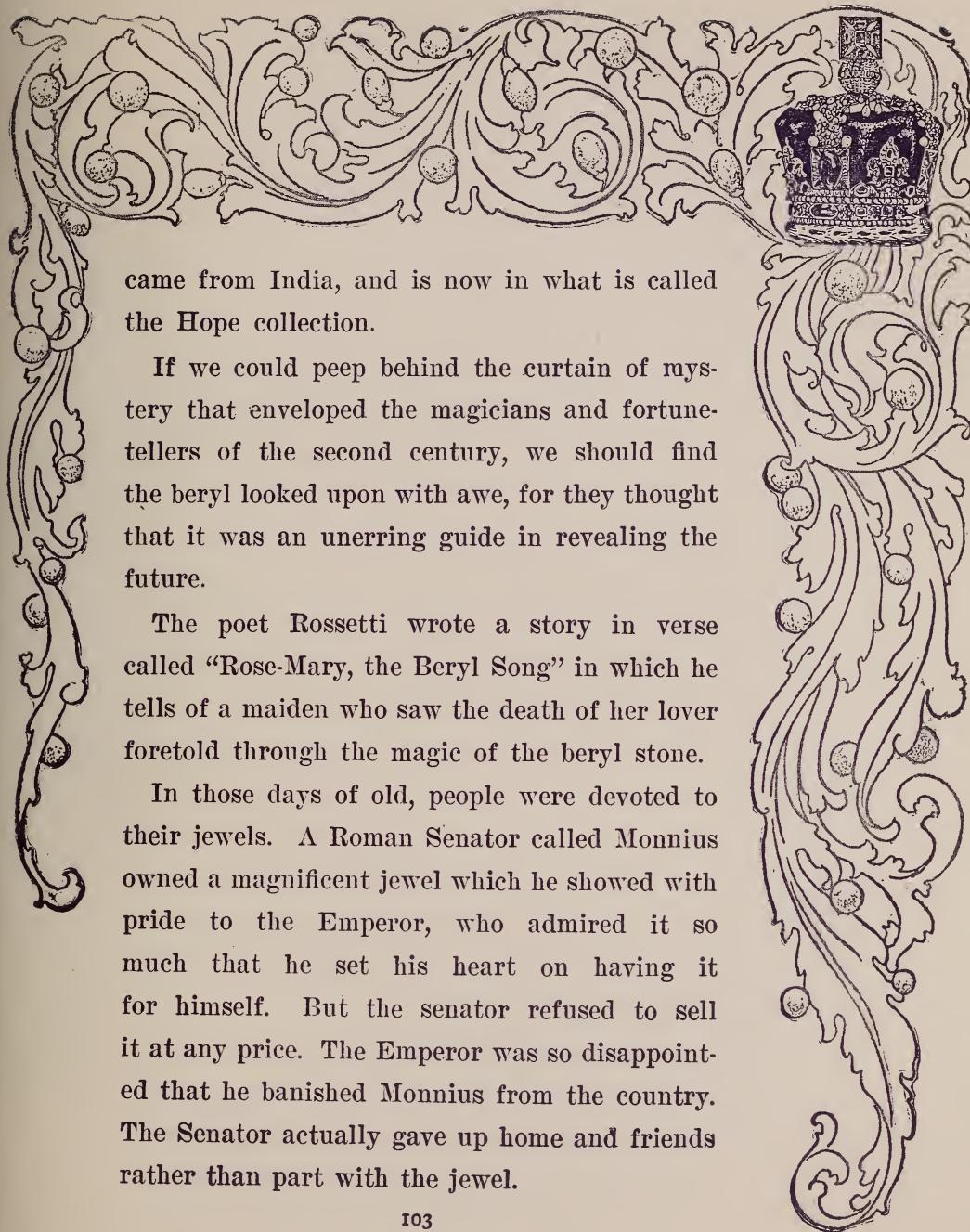
In one of the earlier months we are told of a philosopher who made a list of jewels which he connected with the twelve apostles. The precious Beryl he named for St. Thomas.

Our Beryl comes from the same family as the emerald and aquamarine, with this difference: the beryl is found in many colors, sometimes blue-green, sometimes deep blue, or yellow. The transparent blue-green is the most valuable stone, and chosen for our October birthstone.

American boys and girls will be glad to know that beryl stones are found in seventeen states of the Union. They are not the precious gem variety, but are beryl crystals, sometimes of enormous size, larger than those of any other known mineral. In New Hampshire a beryl crystal was found four and one-quarter feet long.

We must go to India to find the very finest green beryl, to Arabia and Russia for the second best variety.

A magnificent Beryl is mounted on top of the English Crown, but the most costly yet mined

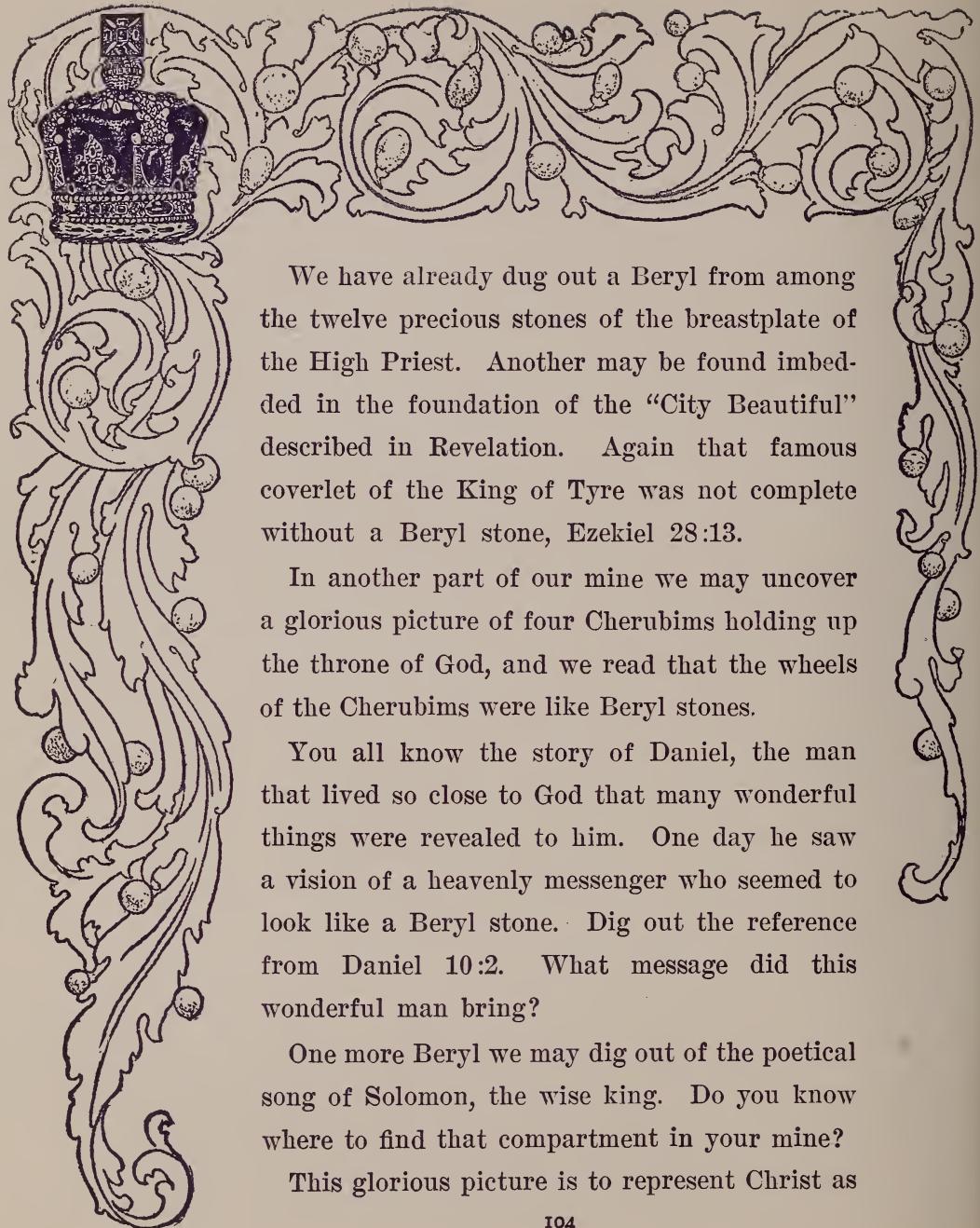


came from India, and is now in what is called the Hope collection.

If we could peep behind the curtain of mystery that enveloped the magicians and fortunetellers of the second century, we should find the beryl looked upon with awe, for they thought that it was an unerring guide in revealing the future.

The poet Rossetti wrote a story in verse called "Rose-Mary, the Beryl Song" in which he tells of a maiden who saw the death of her lover foretold through the magic of the beryl stone.

In those days of old, people were devoted to their jewels. A Roman Senator called Monnius owned a magnificent jewel which he showed with pride to the Emperor, who admired it so much that he set his heart on having it for himself. But the senator refused to sell it at any price. The Emperor was so disappointed that he banished Monnius from the country. The Senator actually gave up home and friends rather than part with the jewel.



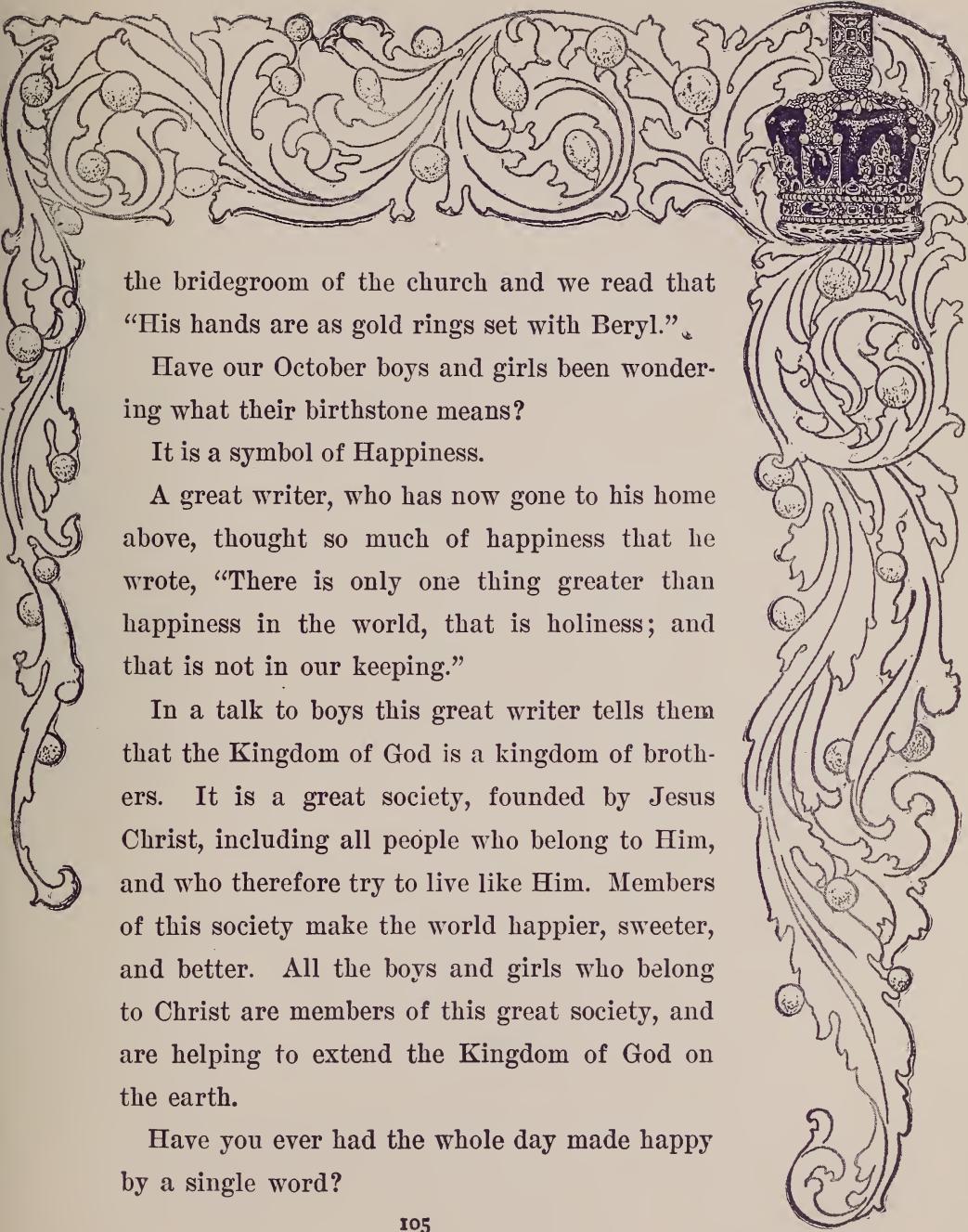
We have already dug out a Beryl from among the twelve precious stones of the breastplate of the High Priest. Another may be found imbedded in the foundation of the "City Beautiful" described in Revelation. Again that famous coverlet of the King of Tyre was not complete without a Beryl stone, Ezekiel 28:13.

In another part of our mine we may uncover a glorious picture of four Cherubims holding up the throne of God, and we read that the wheels of the Cherubims were like Beryl stones.

You all know the story of Daniel, the man that lived so close to God that many wonderful things were revealed to him. One day he saw a vision of a heavenly messenger who seemed to look like a Beryl stone. Dig out the reference from Daniel 10:2. What message did this wonderful man bring?

One more Beryl we may dig out of the poetical song of Solomon, the wise king. Do you know where to find that compartment in your mine?

This glorious picture is to represent Christ as



the bridegroom of the church and we read that
“His hands are as gold rings set with Beryl.”

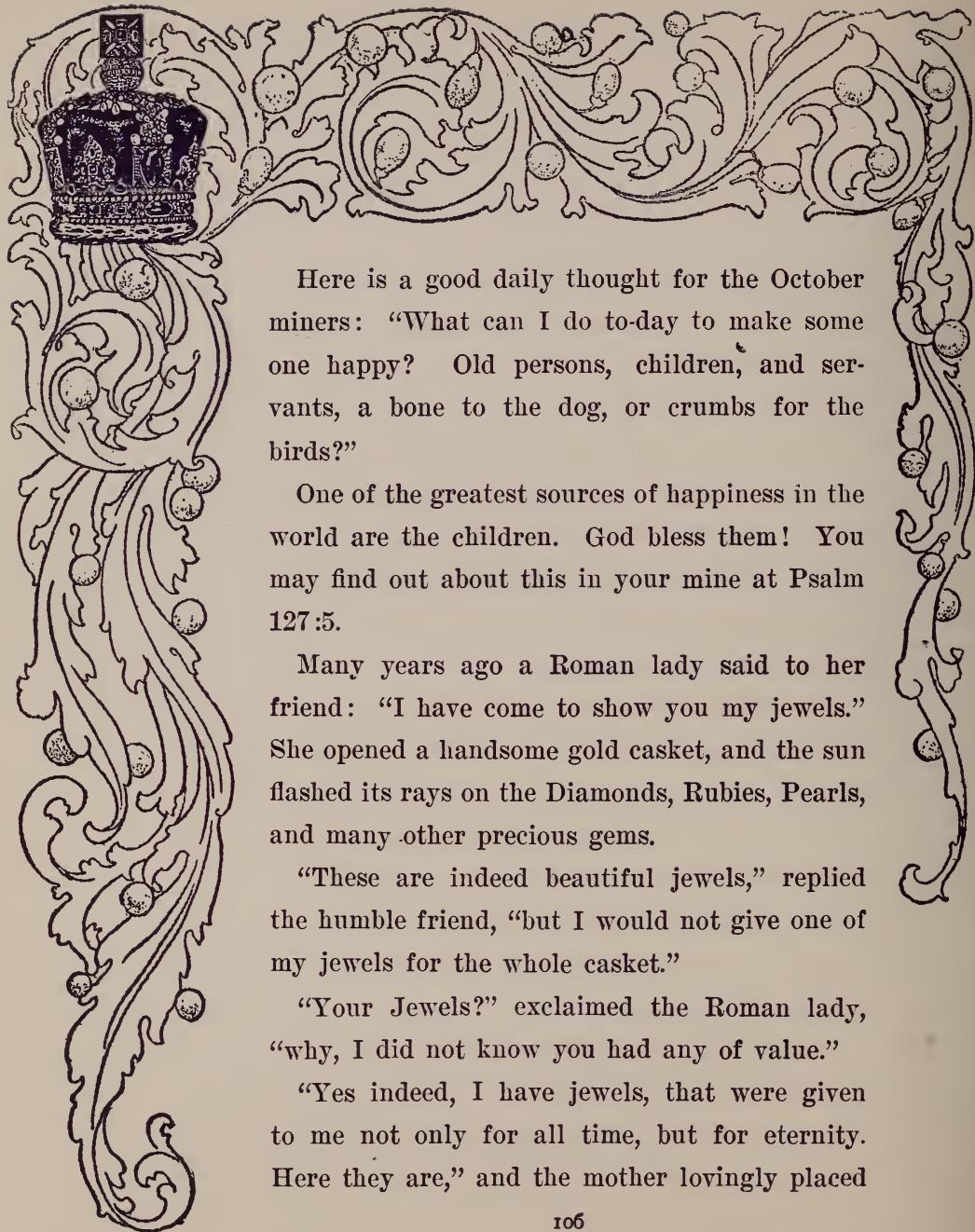
Have our October boys and girls been wondering what their birthstone means?

It is a symbol of Happiness.

A great writer, who has now gone to his home above, thought so much of happiness that he wrote, “There is only one thing greater than happiness in the world, that is holiness; and that is not in our keeping.”

In a talk to boys this great writer tells them that the Kingdom of God is a kingdom of brothers. It is a great society, founded by Jesus Christ, including all people who belong to Him, and who therefore try to live like Him. Members of this society make the world happier, sweeter, and better. All the boys and girls who belong to Christ are members of this great society, and are helping to extend the Kingdom of God on the earth.

Have you ever had the whole day made happy by a single word?



Here is a good daily thought for the October miners: "What can I do to-day to make some one happy? Old persons, children, and servants, a bone to the dog, or crumbs for the birds?"

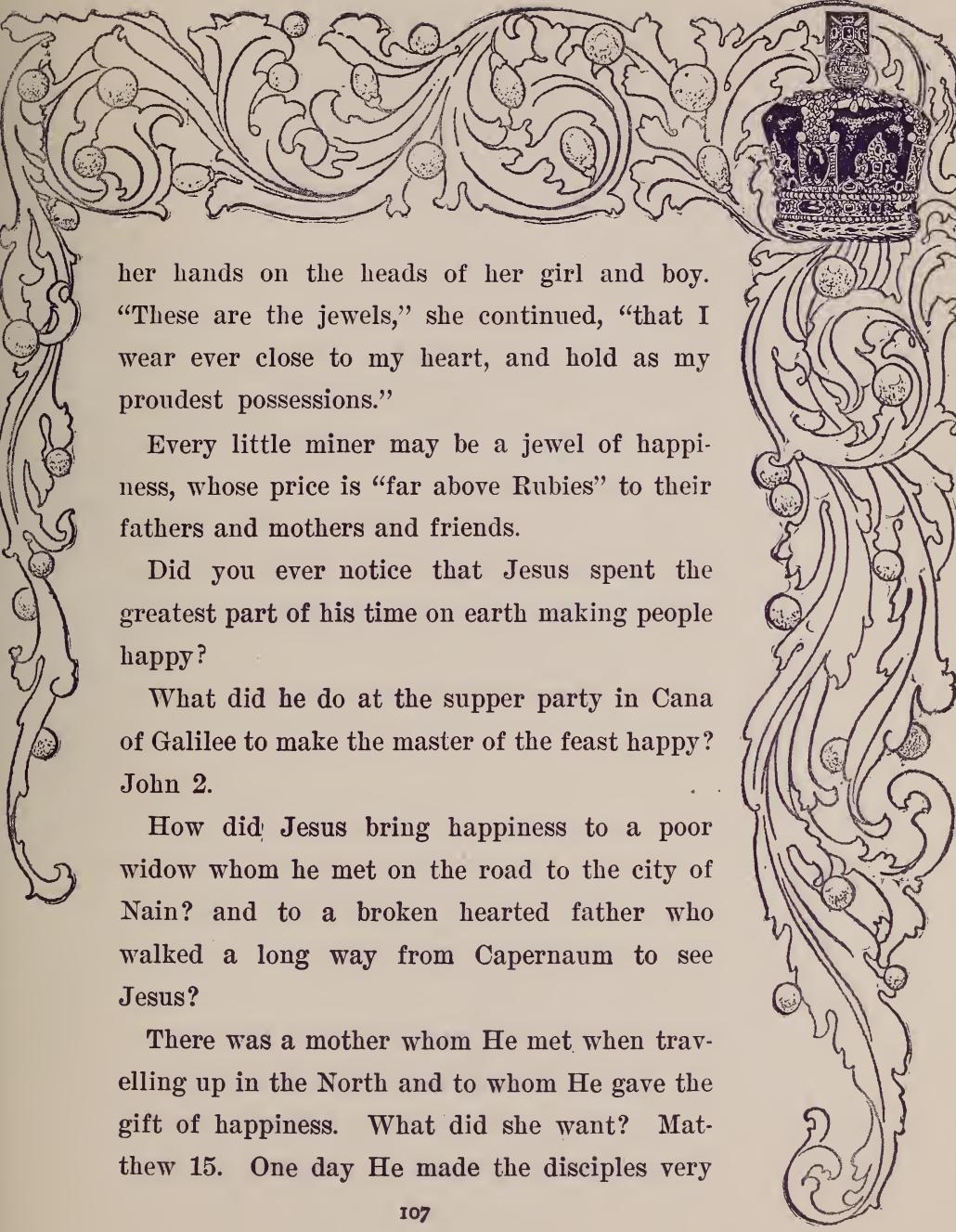
One of the greatest sources of happiness in the world are the children. God bless them! You may find out about this in your mine at Psalm 127:5.

Many years ago a Roman lady said to her friend: "I have come to show you my jewels." She opened a handsome gold casket, and the sun flashed its rays on the Diamonds, Rubies, Pearls, and many other precious gems.

"These are indeed beautiful jewels," replied the humble friend, "but I would not give one of my jewels for the whole casket."

"Your Jewels?" exclaimed the Roman lady, "why, I did not know you had any of value."

"Yes indeed, I have jewels, that were given to me not only for all time, but for eternity. Here they are," and the mother lovingly placed



her hands on the heads of her girl and boy. "These are the jewels," she continued, "that I wear ever close to my heart, and hold as my proudest possessions."

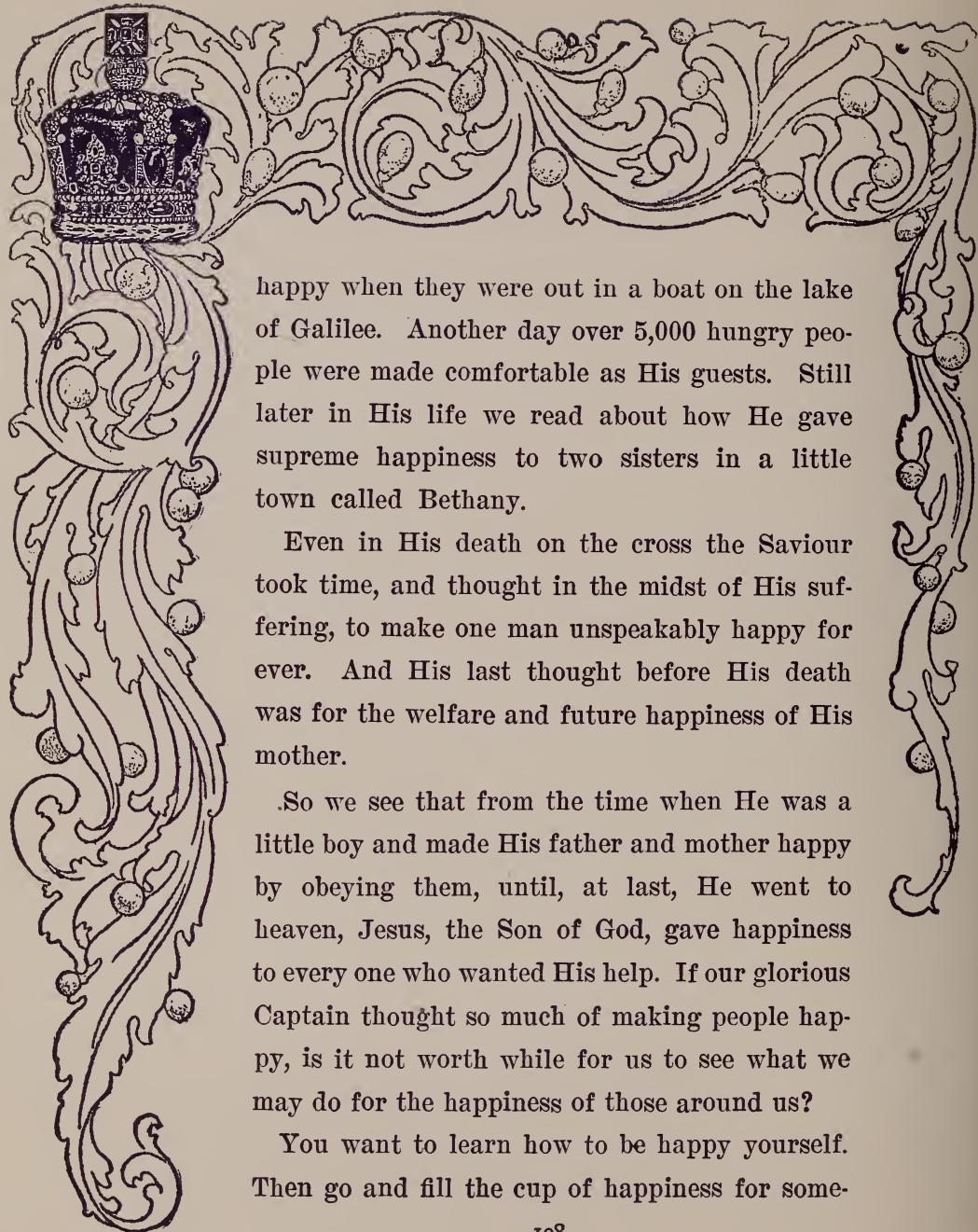
Every little miner may be a jewel of happiness, whose price is "far above Rubies" to their fathers and mothers and friends.

Did you ever notice that Jesus spent the greatest part of his time on earth making people happy?

What did he do at the supper party in Cana of Galilee to make the master of the feast happy?
John 2.

How did Jesus bring happiness to a poor widow whom he met on the road to the city of Nain? and to a broken hearted father who walked a long way from Capernaum to see Jesus?

There was a mother whom He met when travelling up in the North and to whom He gave the gift of happiness. What did she want? Matthew 15. One day He made the disciples very

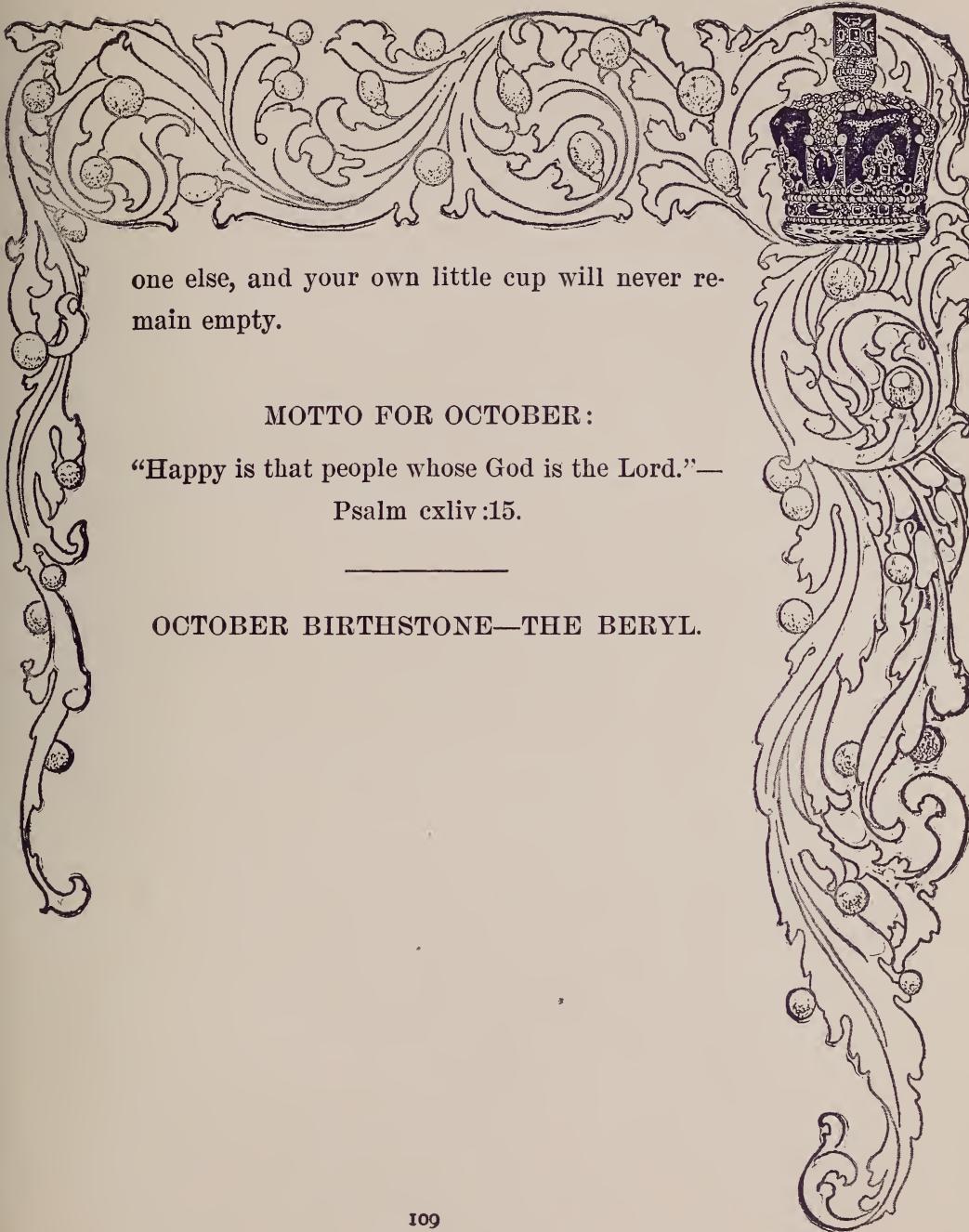


happy when they were out in a boat on the lake of Galilee. Another day over 5,000 hungry people were made comfortable as His guests. Still later in His life we read about how He gave supreme happiness to two sisters in a little town called Bethany.

Even in His death on the cross the Saviour took time, and thought in the midst of His suffering, to make one man unspeakably happy for ever. And His last thought before His death was for the welfare and future happiness of His mother.

So we see that from the time when He was a little boy and made His father and mother happy by obeying them, until, at last, He went to heaven, Jesus, the Son of God, gave happiness to every one who wanted His help. If our glorious Captain thought so much of making people happy, is it not worth while for us to see what we may do for the happiness of those around us?

You want to learn how to be happy yourself. Then go and fill the cup of happiness for some-

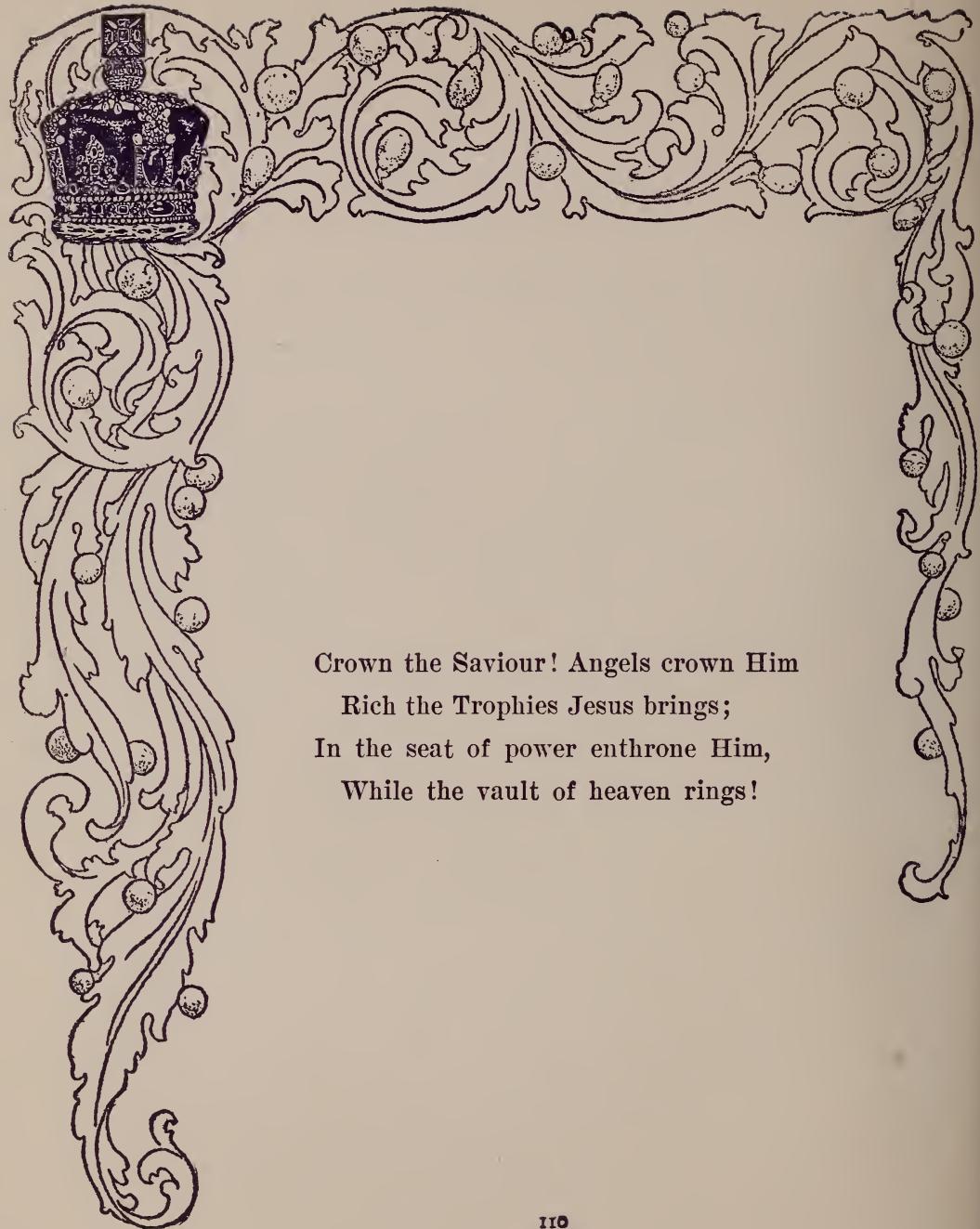


one else, and your own little cup will never remain empty.

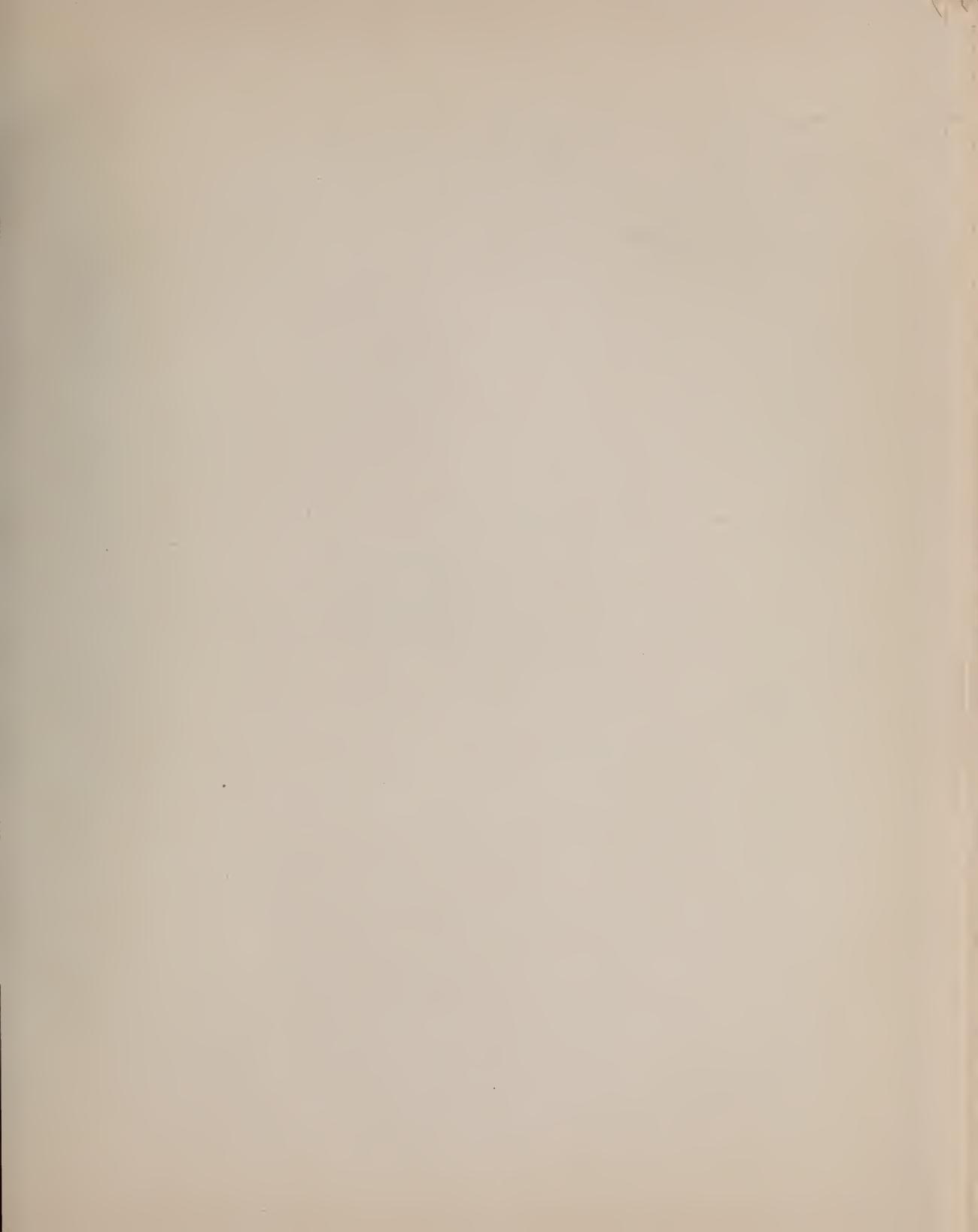
MOTTO FOR OCTOBER:

“Happy is that people whose God is the Lord.”—
Psalm cxliv :15.

OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE—THE BERYL.



Crown the Saviour! Angels crown Him
Rich the Trophies Jesus brings;
In the seat of power enthrone Him,
While the vault of heaven rings!







NOVEMBER

THE TOPAZ.

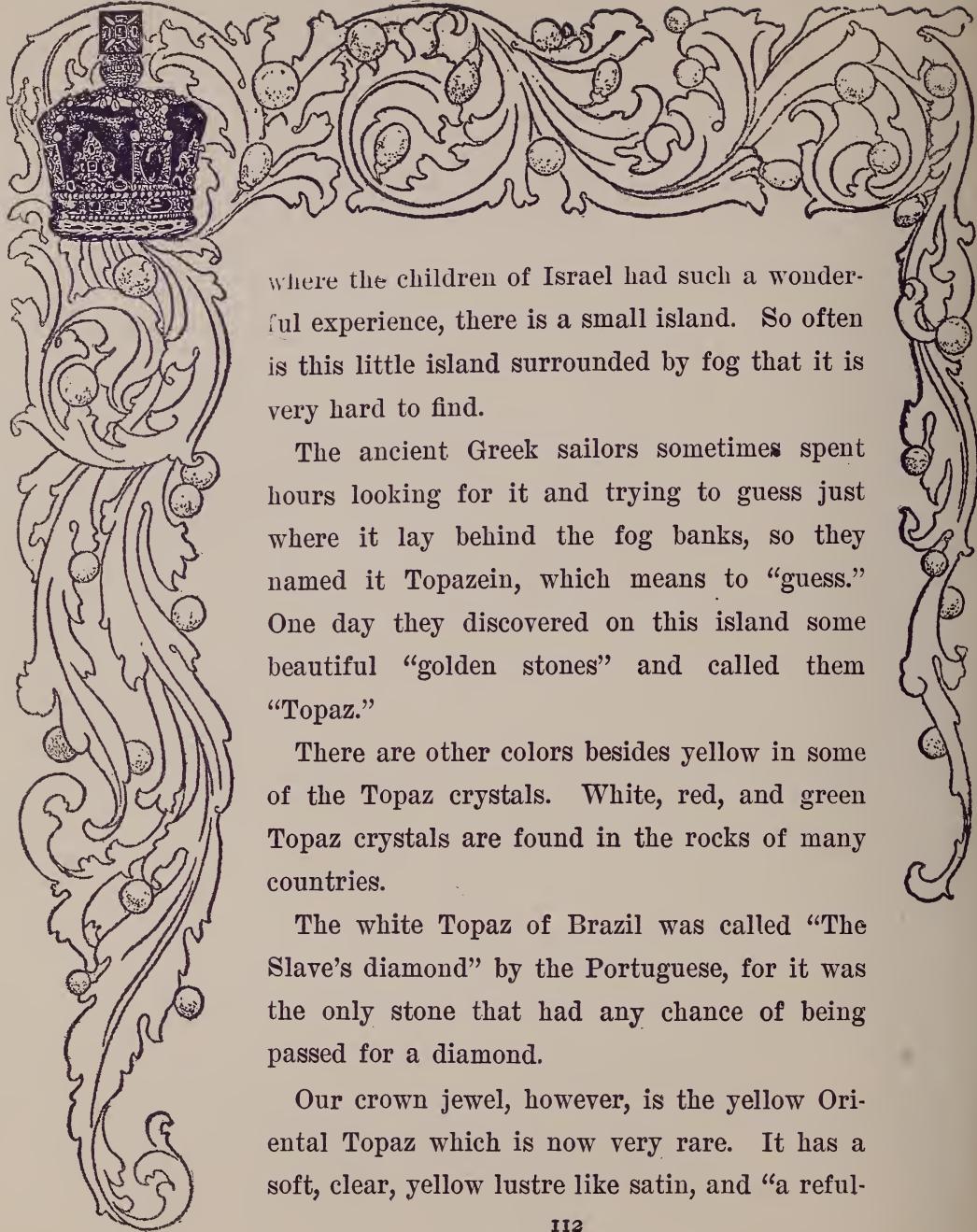
BOYS and girls who live in the country know what a joy it is to run races among the Autumn leaves on a crisp November day, while the mischievous wind blows them in circles around us. What fun to lie buried in the fragrant heaps, or to hunt for the most beautiful yellow, crimson, or golden brown leaves to carry home to mother.

Our November birthstone is just the color of some of these bright Autumn leaves. Golden yellow, clear, bright, transparent.

The yellow Topaz often called the "Golden stone."

"The Topaz is a jewel rare,
And therefore must be bought full dear;
Made up of hues of golden light,
And with celestial lustre bright."

The name "Topaz" was given to the gem in a romantic way. Far off in the famous Red Sea,



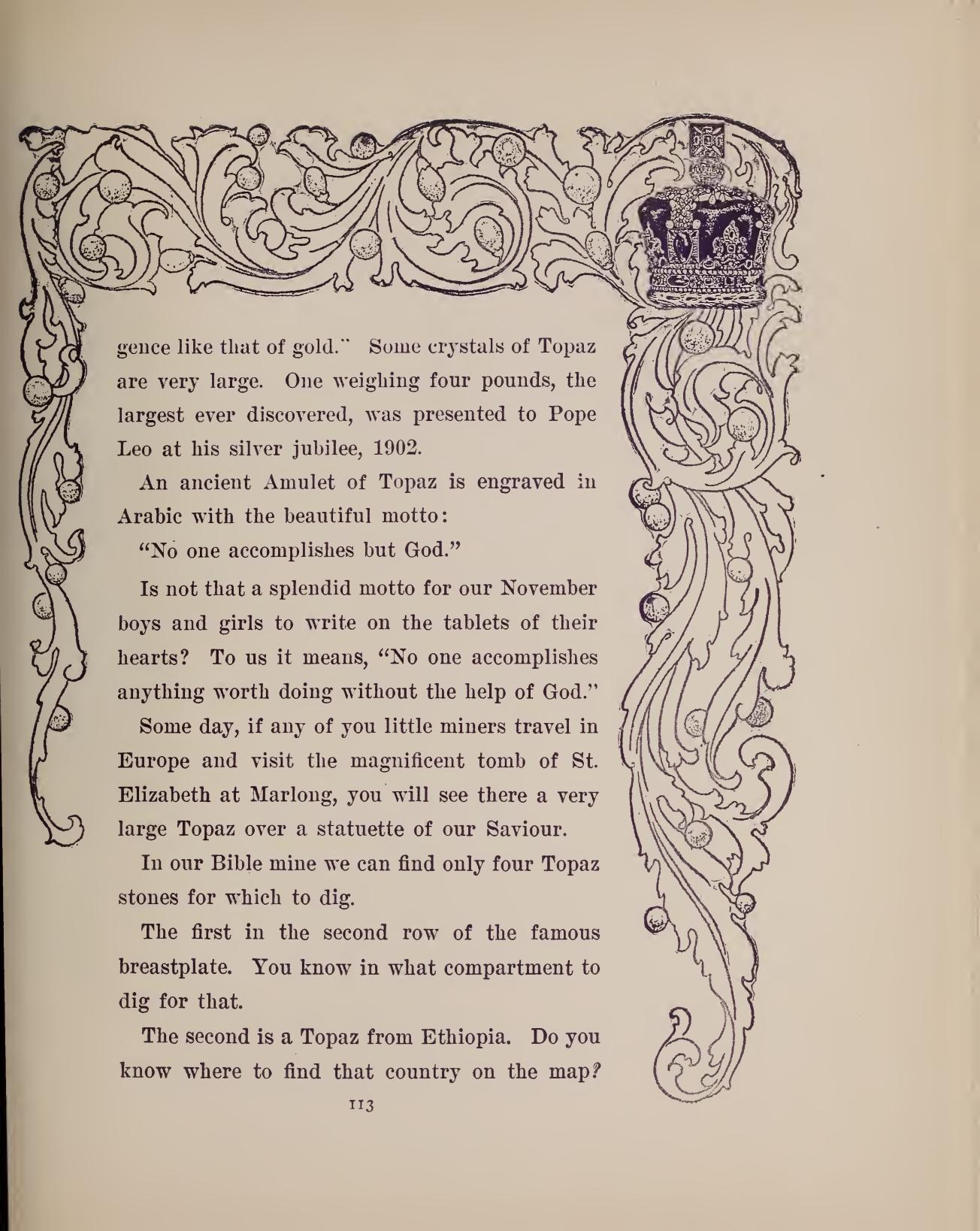
where the children of Israel had such a wonderful experience, there is a small island. So often is this little island surrounded by fog that it is very hard to find.

The ancient Greek sailors sometimes spent hours looking for it and trying to guess just where it lay behind the fog banks, so they named it Topazein, which means to "guess." One day they discovered on this island some beautiful "golden stones" and called them "Topaz."

There are other colors besides yellow in some of the Topaz crystals. White, red, and green Topaz crystals are found in the rocks of many countries.

The white Topaz of Brazil was called "The Slave's diamond" by the Portuguese, for it was the only stone that had any chance of being passed for a diamond.

Our crown jewel, however, is the yellow Oriental Topaz which is now very rare. It has a soft, clear, yellow lustre like satin, and "a reful-



gence like that of gold." Some crystals of Topaz are very large. One weighing four pounds, the largest ever discovered, was presented to Pope Leo at his silver jubilee, 1902.

An ancient Amulet of Topaz is engraved in Arabic with the beautiful motto:

"No one accomplishes but God."

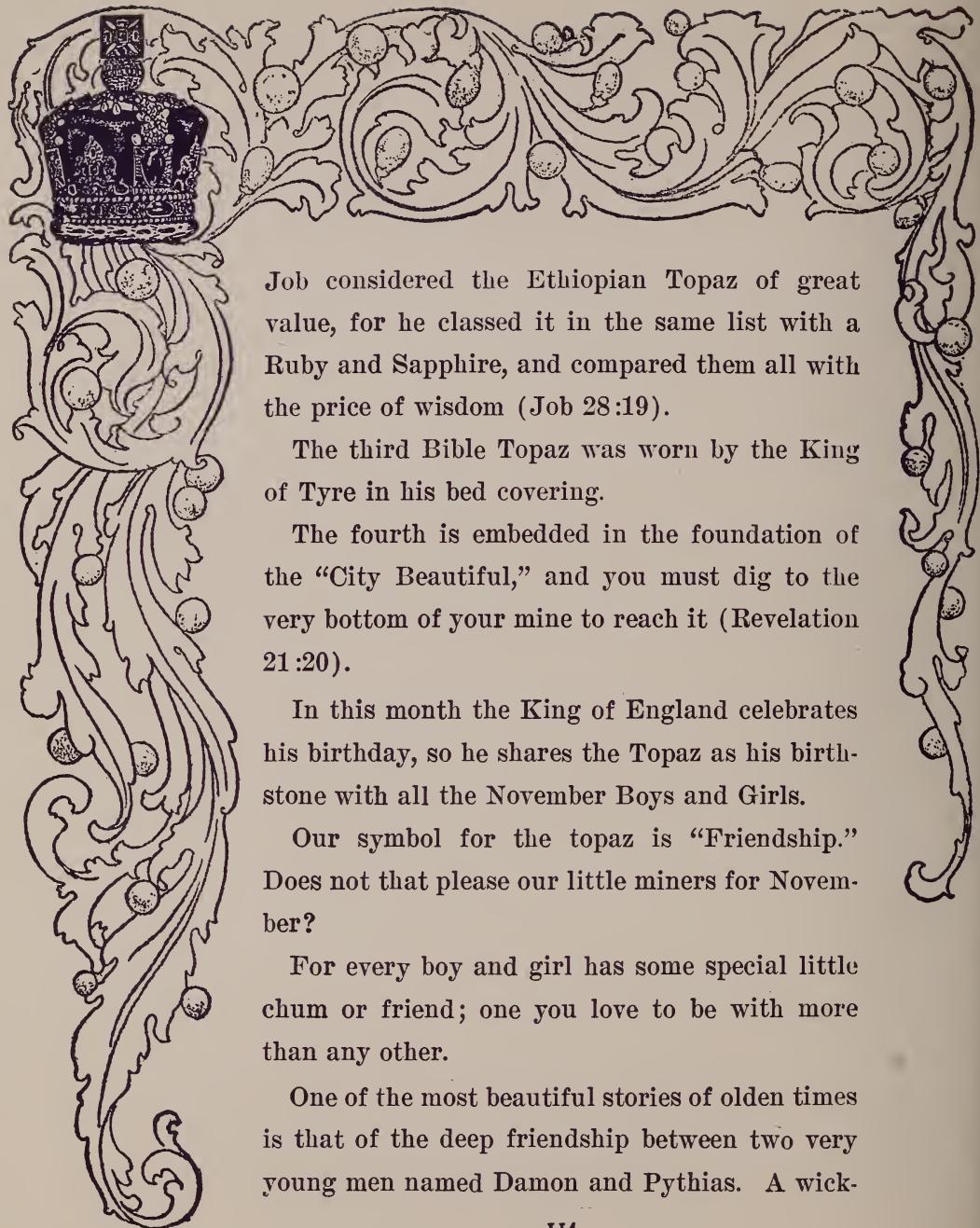
Is not that a splendid motto for our November boys and girls to write on the tablets of their hearts? To us it means, "No one accomplishes anything worth doing without the help of God."

Some day, if any of you little miners travel in Europe and visit the magnificent tomb of St. Elizabeth at Marlong, you will see there a very large Topaz over a statuette of our Saviour.

In our Bible mine we can find only four Topaz stones for which to dig.

The first in the second row of the famous breastplate. You know in what compartment to dig for that.

The second is a Topaz from Ethiopia. Do you know where to find that country on the map?



Job considered the Ethiopian Topaz of great value, for he classed it in the same list with a Ruby and Sapphire, and compared them all with the price of wisdom (Job 28:19).

The third Bible Topaz was worn by the King of Tyre in his bed covering.

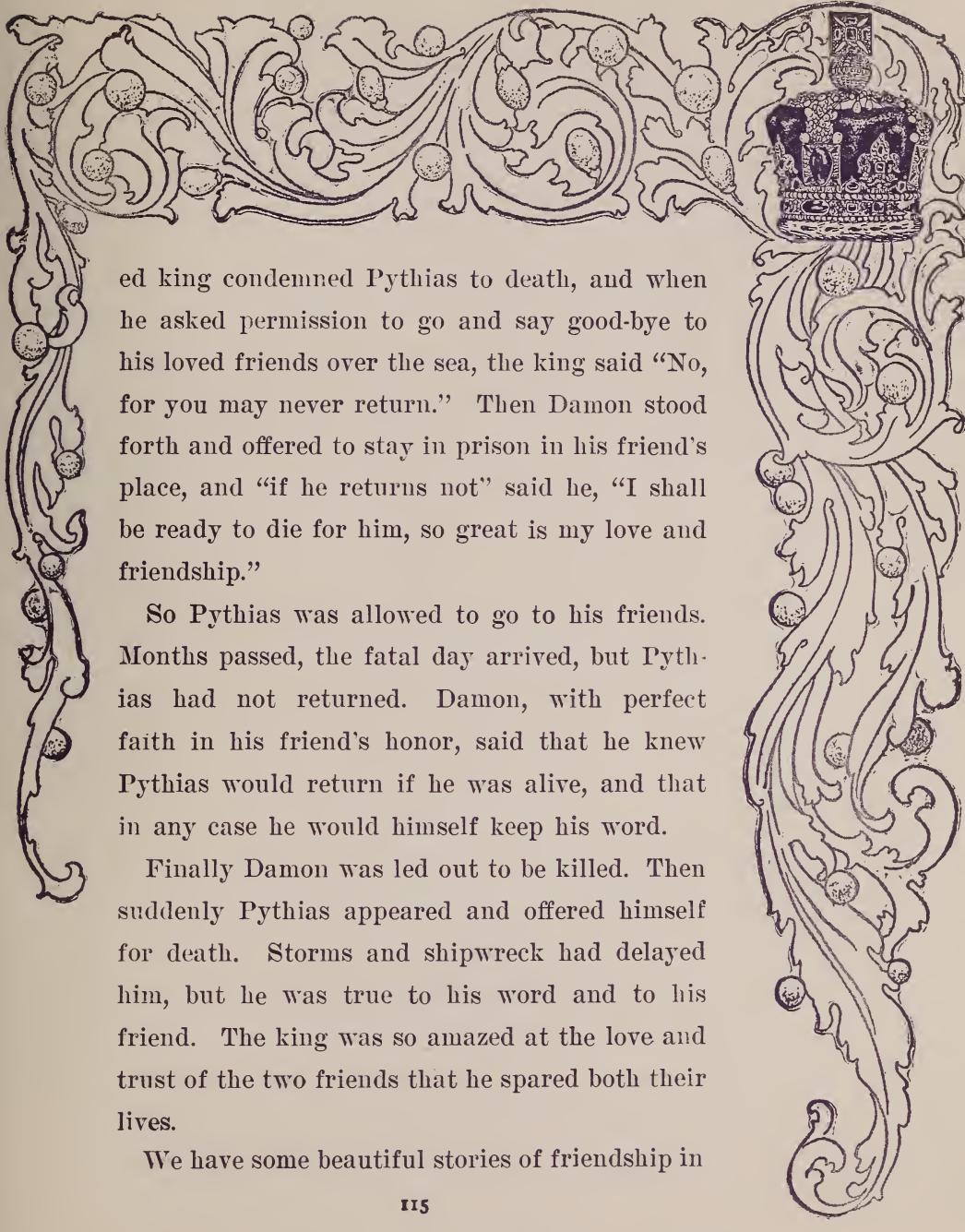
The fourth is embedded in the foundation of the "City Beautiful," and you must dig to the very bottom of your mine to reach it (Revelation 21:20).

In this month the King of England celebrates his birthday, so he shares the Topaz as his birthstone with all the November Boys and Girls.

Our symbol for the topaz is "Friendship." Does not that please our little miners for November?

For every boy and girl has some special little chum or friend; one you love to be with more than any other.

One of the most beautiful stories of olden times is that of the deep friendship between two very young men named Damon and Pythias. A wick-

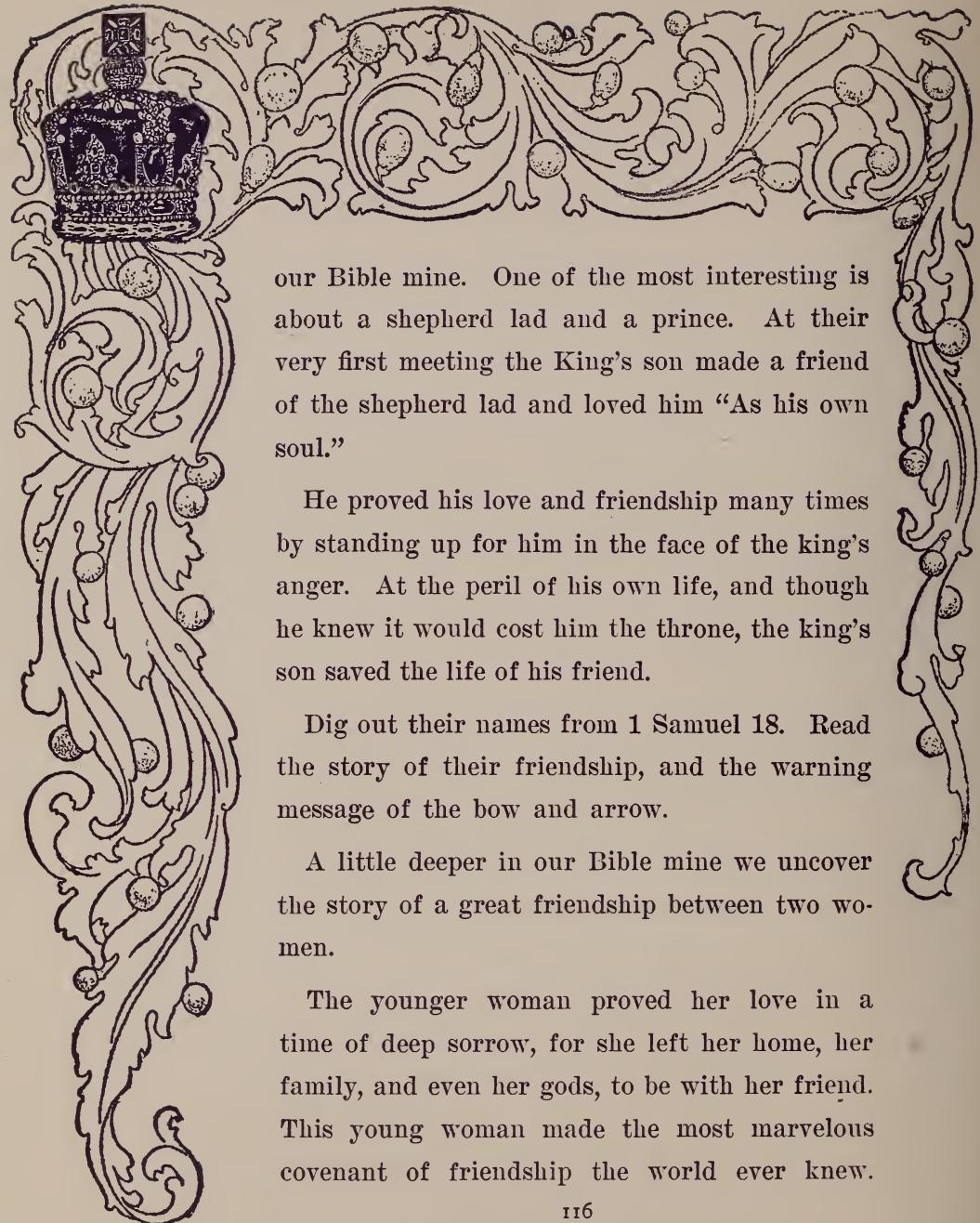


ed king condemned Pythias to death, and when he asked permission to go and say good-bye to his loved friends over the sea, the king said "No, for you may never return." Then Damon stood forth and offered to stay in prison in his friend's place, and "if he returns not" said he, "I shall be ready to die for him, so great is my love and friendship."

So Pythias was allowed to go to his friends. Months passed, the fatal day arrived, but Pythias had not returned. Damon, with perfect faith in his friend's honor, said that he knew Pythias would return if he was alive, and that in any case he would himself keep his word.

Finally Damon was led out to be killed. Then suddenly Pythias appeared and offered himself for death. Storms and shipwreck had delayed him, but he was true to his word and to his friend. The king was so amazed at the love and trust of the two friends that he spared both their lives.

We have some beautiful stories of friendship in



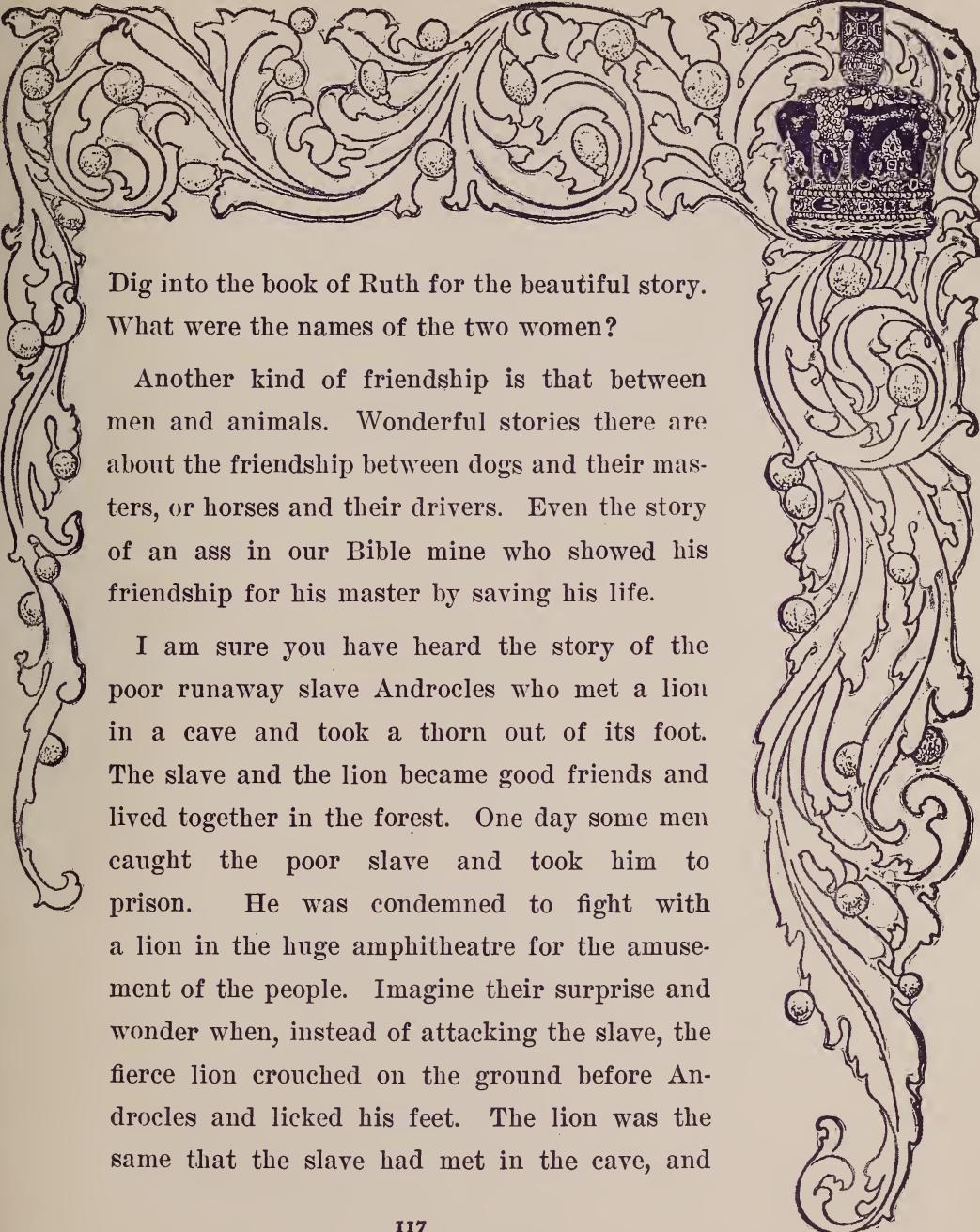
our Bible mine. One of the most interesting is about a shepherd lad and a prince. At their very first meeting the King's son made a friend of the shepherd lad and loved him "As his own soul."

He proved his love and friendship many times by standing up for him in the face of the king's anger. At the peril of his own life, and though he knew it would cost him the throne, the king's son saved the life of his friend.

Dig out their names from 1 Samuel 18. Read the story of their friendship, and the warning message of the bow and arrow.

A little deeper in our Bible mine we uncover the story of a great friendship between two women.

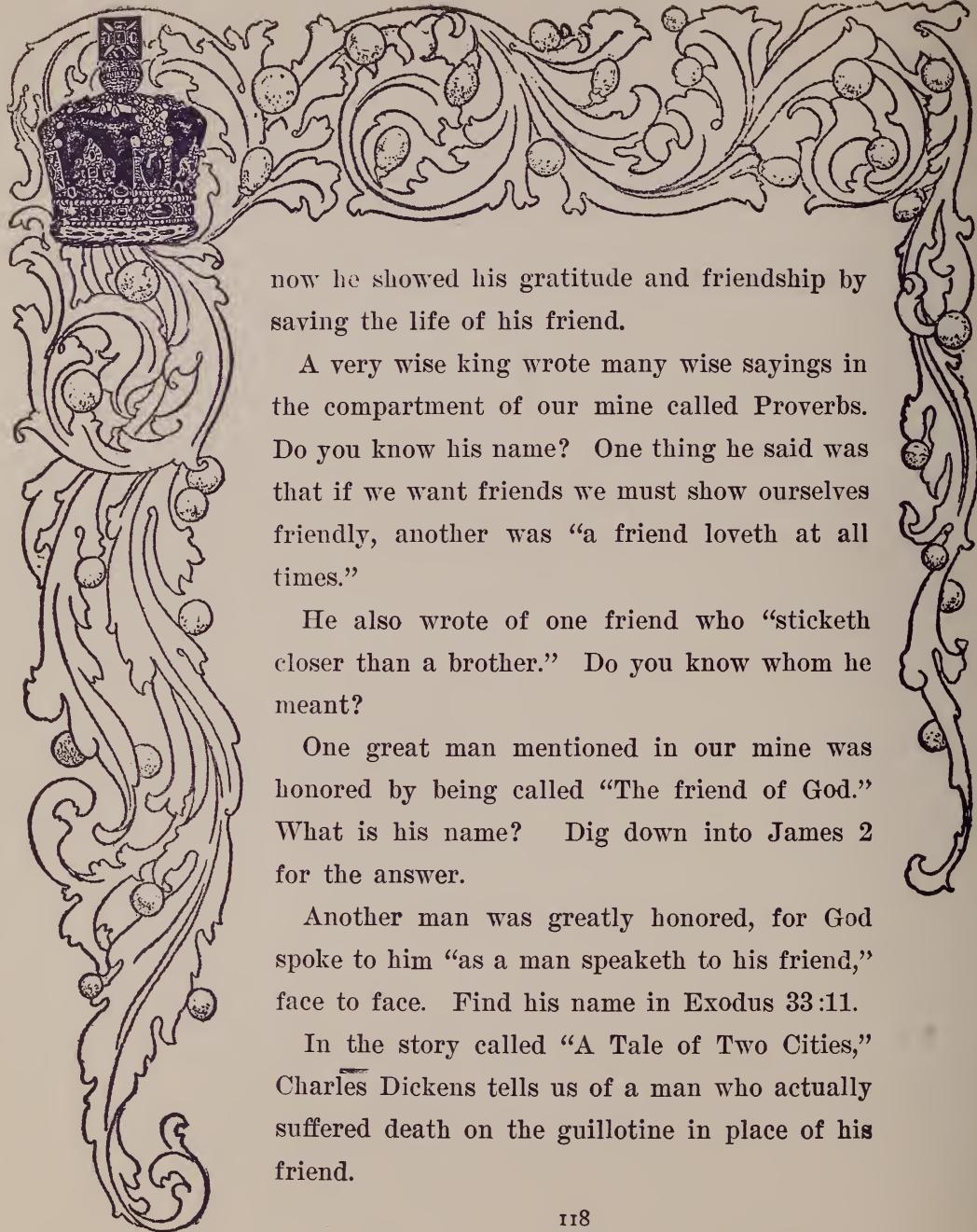
The younger woman proved her love in a time of deep sorrow, for she left her home, her family, and even her gods, to be with her friend. This young woman made the most marvelous covenant of friendship the world ever knew.



Dig into the book of Ruth for the beautiful story.
What were the names of the two women?

Another kind of friendship is that between men and animals. Wonderful stories there are about the friendship between dogs and their masters, or horses and their drivers. Even the story of an ass in our Bible mine who showed his friendship for his master by saving his life.

I am sure you have heard the story of the poor runaway slave Androcles who met a lion in a cave and took a thorn out of its foot. The slave and the lion became good friends and lived together in the forest. One day some men caught the poor slave and took him to prison. He was condemned to fight with a lion in the huge amphitheatre for the amusement of the people. Imagine their surprise and wonder when, instead of attacking the slave, the fierce lion crouched on the ground before Androcles and licked his feet. The lion was the same that the slave had met in the cave, and



now he showed his gratitude and friendship by saving the life of his friend.

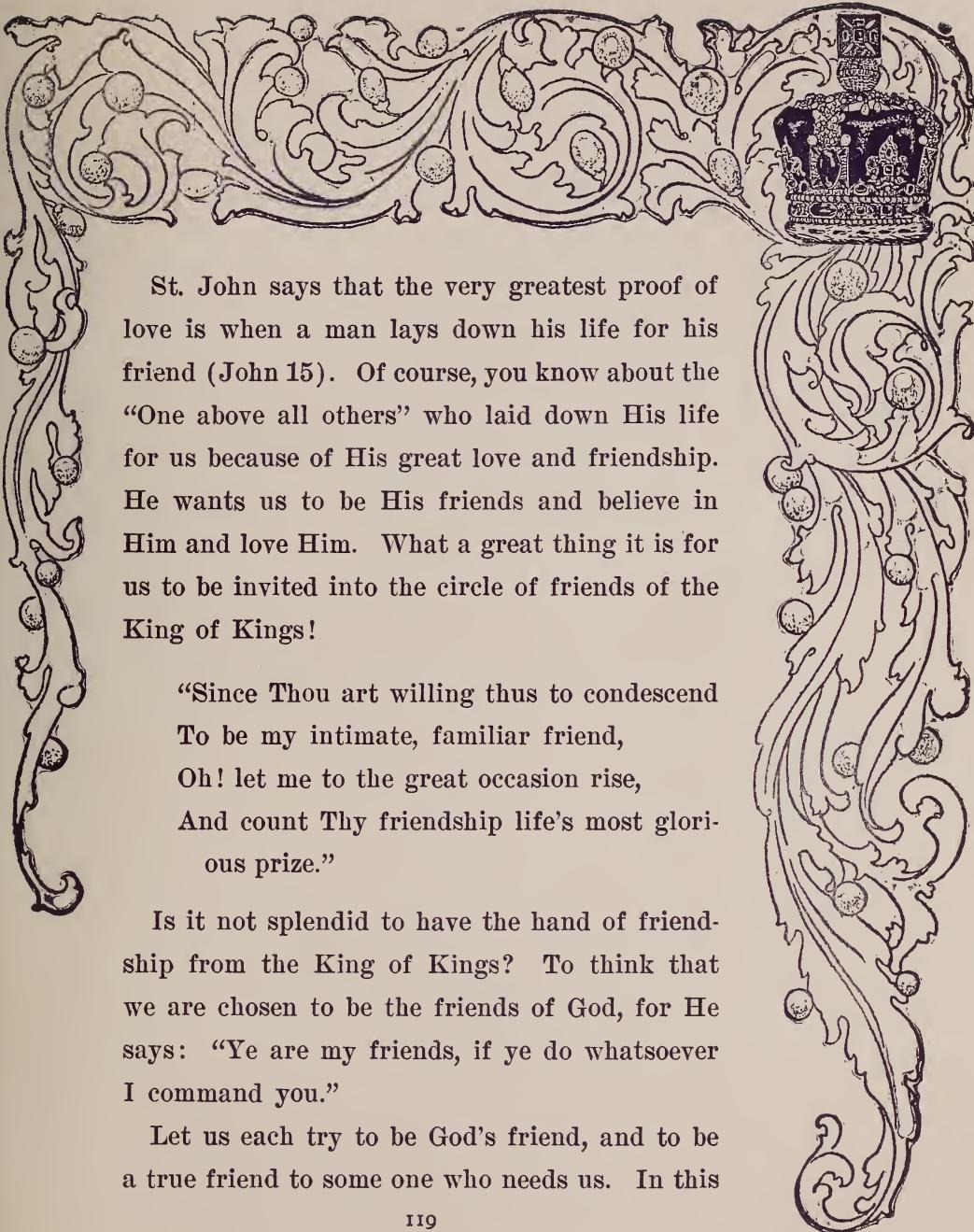
A very wise king wrote many wise sayings in the compartment of our mine called Proverbs. Do you know his name? One thing he said was that if we want friends we must show ourselves friendly, another was "a friend loveth at all times."

He also wrote of one friend who "sticketh closer than a brother." Do you know whom he meant?

One great man mentioned in our mine was honored by being called "The friend of God." What is his name? Dig down into James 2 for the answer.

Another man was greatly honored, for God spoke to him "as a man speaketh to his friend," face to face. Find his name in Exodus 33:11.

In the story called "A Tale of Two Cities," Charles Dickens tells us of a man who actually suffered death on the guillotine in place of his friend.

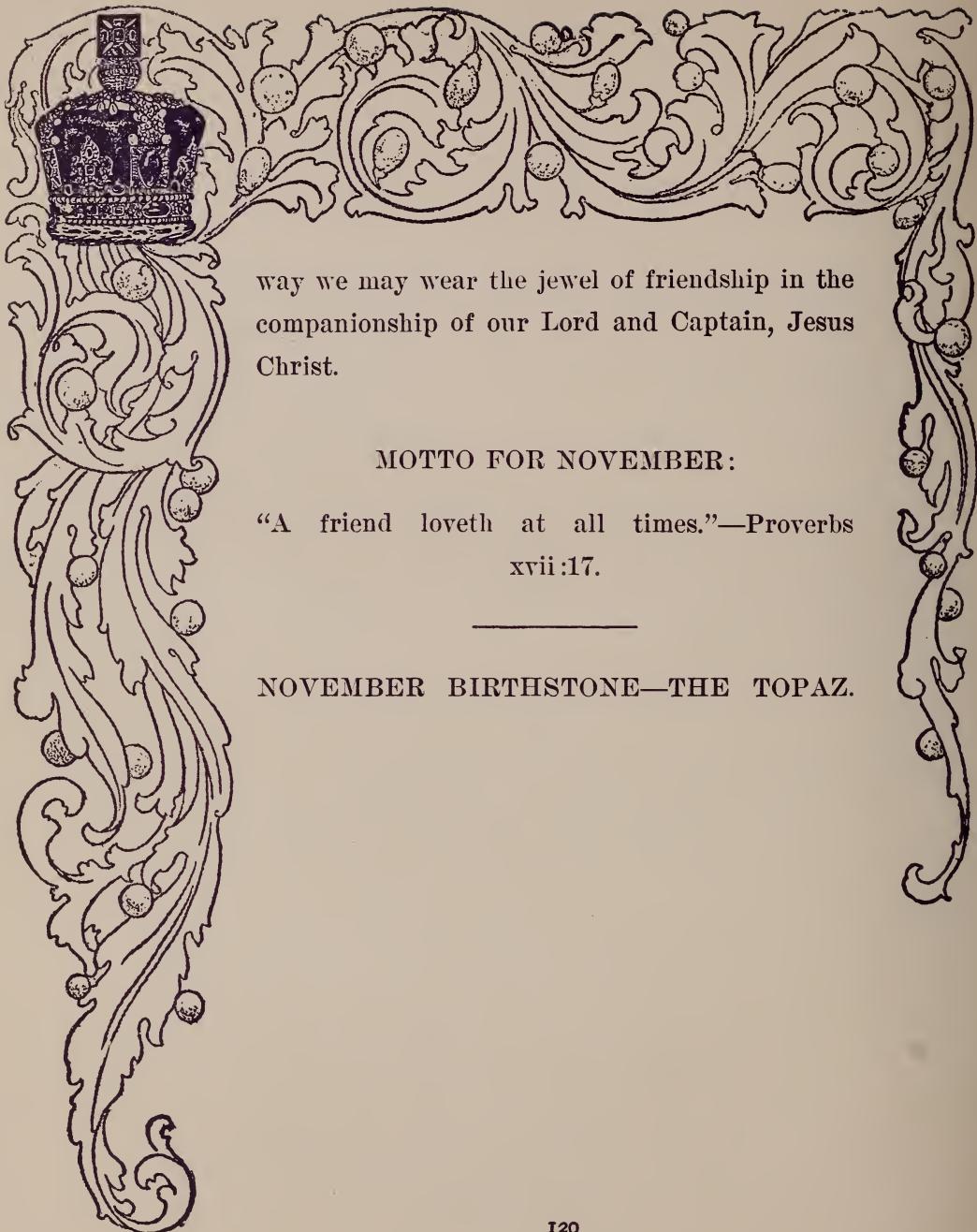


St. John says that the very greatest proof of love is when a man lays down his life for his friend (John 15). Of course, you know about the "One above all others" who laid down His life for us because of His great love and friendship. He wants us to be His friends and believe in Him and love Him. What a great thing it is for us to be invited into the circle of friends of the King of Kings!

"Since Thou art willing thus to condescend
To be my intimate, familiar friend,
Oh! let me to the great occasion rise,
And count Thy friendship life's most glorious prize."

Is it not splendid to have the hand of friendship from the King of Kings? To think that we are chosen to be the friends of God, for He says: "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

Let us each try to be God's friend, and to be a true friend to some one who needs us. In this



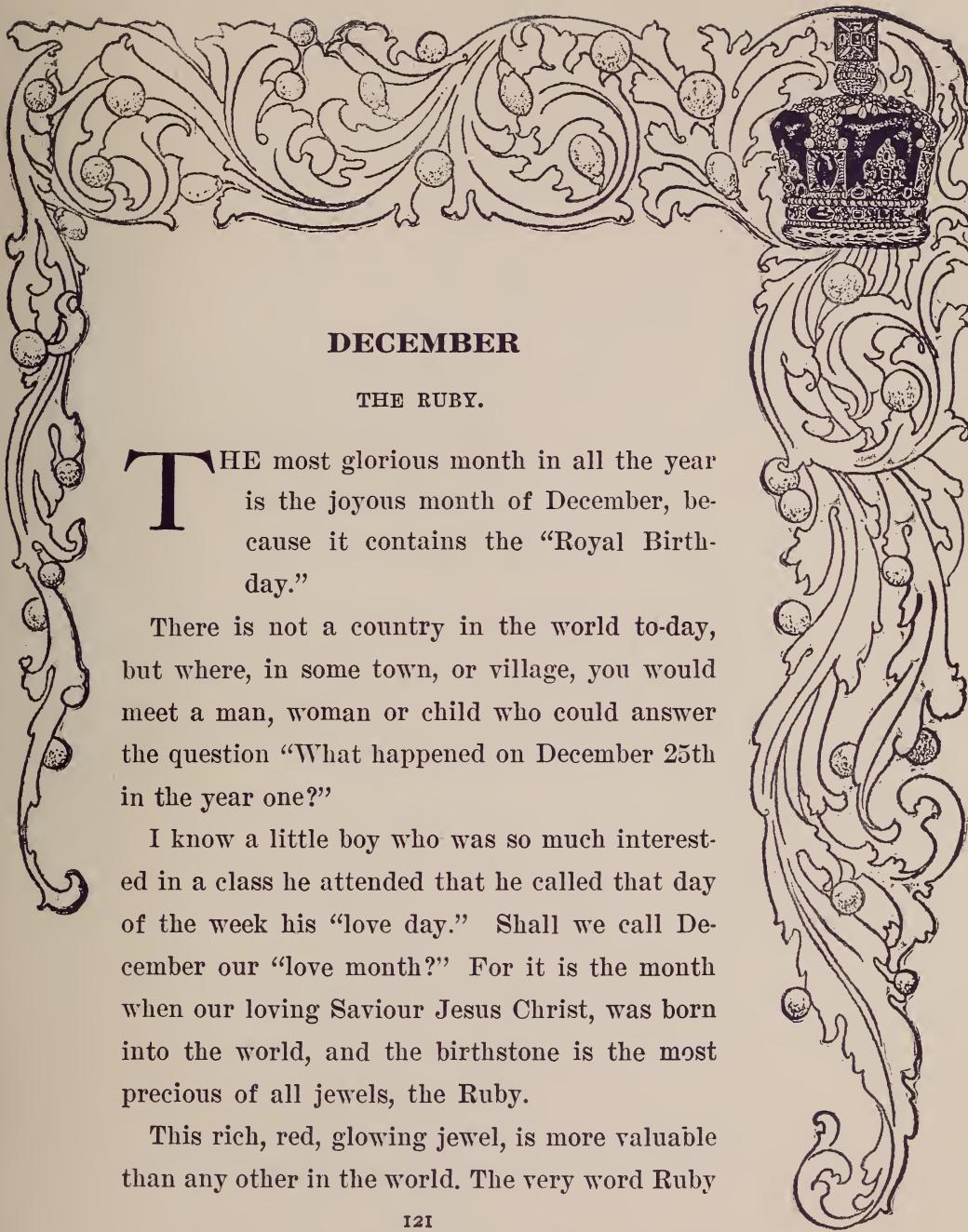
way we may wear the jewel of friendship in the companionship of our Lord and Captain, Jesus Christ.

MOTTO FOR NOVEMBER:

"A friend loveth at all times."—Proverbs xvii :17.

NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE—THE TOPAZ.





DECEMBER

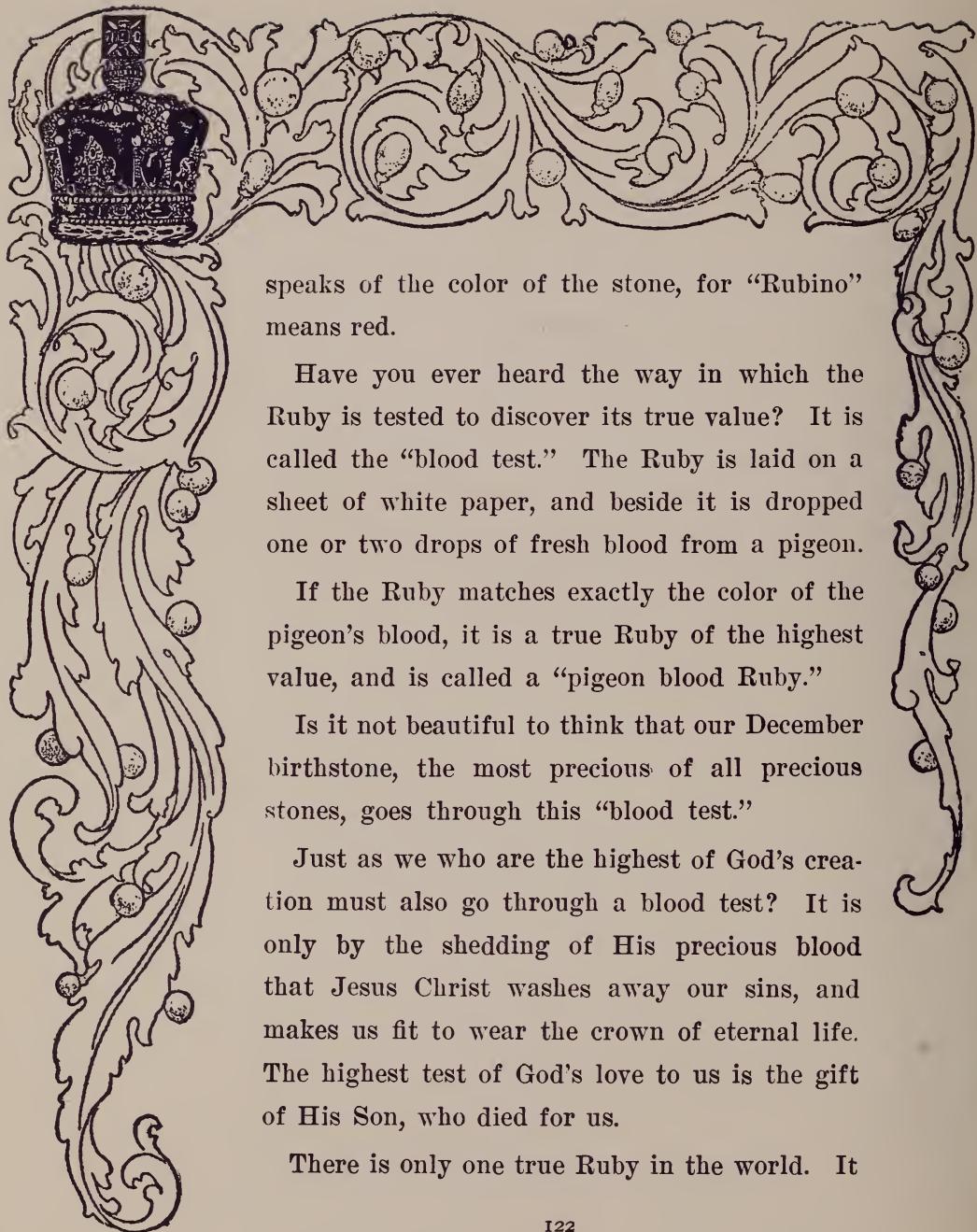
THE RUBY.

THE most glorious month in all the year is the joyous month of December, because it contains the "Royal Birthday."

There is not a country in the world to-day, but where, in some town, or village, you would meet a man, woman or child who could answer the question "What happened on December 25th in the year one?"

I know a little boy who was so much interested in a class he attended that he called that day of the week his "love day." Shall we call December our "love month?" For it is the month when our loving Saviour Jesus Christ, was born into the world, and the birthstone is the most precious of all jewels, the Ruby.

This rich, red, glowing jewel, is more valuable than any other in the world. The very word Ruby



speaks of the color of the stone, for "Rubino" means red.

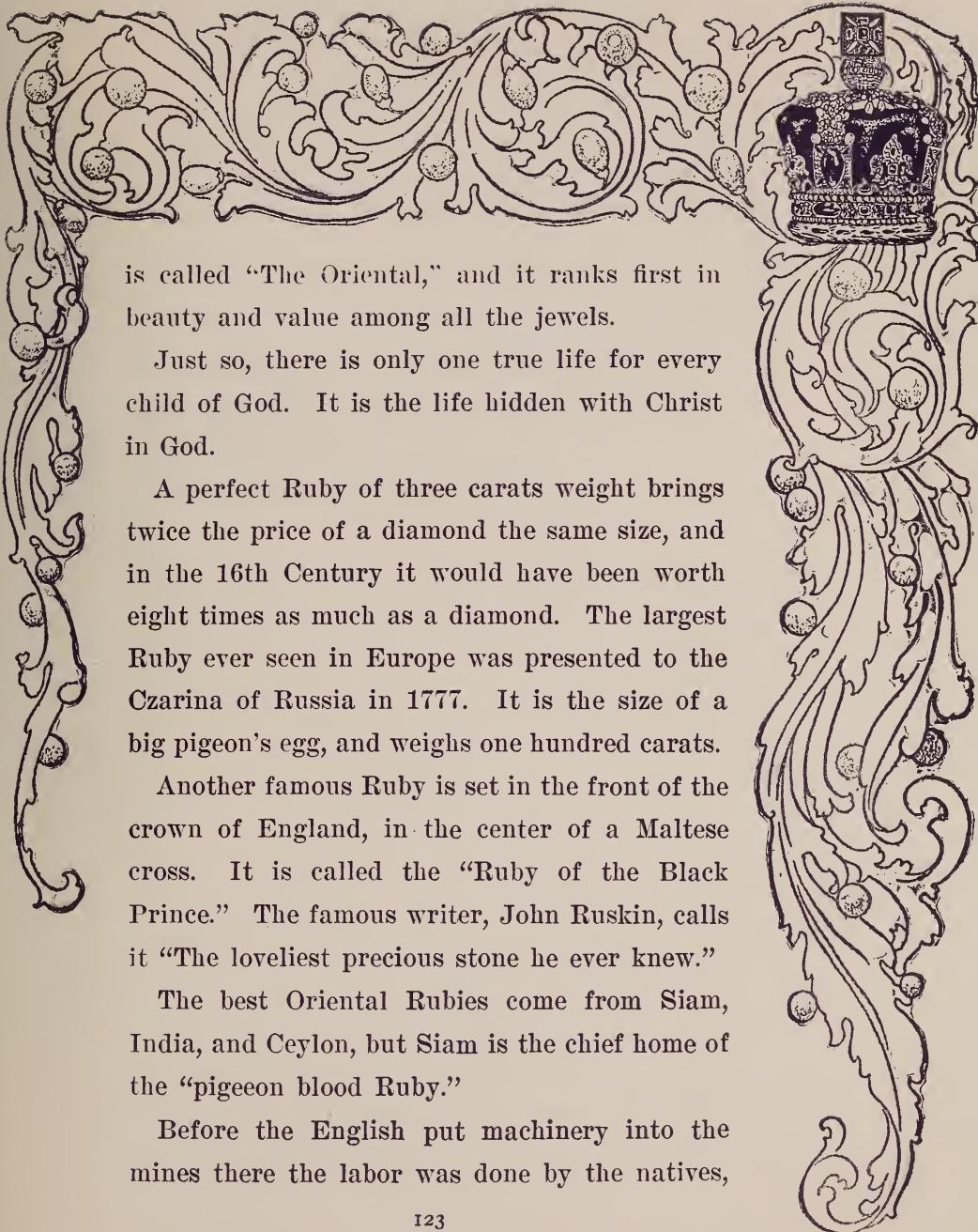
Have you ever heard the way in which the Ruby is tested to discover its true value? It is called the "blood test." The Ruby is laid on a sheet of white paper, and beside it is dropped one or two drops of fresh blood from a pigeon.

If the Ruby matches exactly the color of the pigeon's blood, it is a true Ruby of the highest value, and is called a "pigeon blood Ruby."

Is it not beautiful to think that our December birthstone, the most precious of all precious stones, goes through this "blood test."

Just as we who are the highest of God's creation must also go through a blood test? It is only by the shedding of His precious blood that Jesus Christ washes away our sins, and makes us fit to wear the crown of eternal life. The highest test of God's love to us is the gift of His Son, who died for us.

There is only one true Ruby in the world. It



is called "The Oriental," and it ranks first in beauty and value among all the jewels.

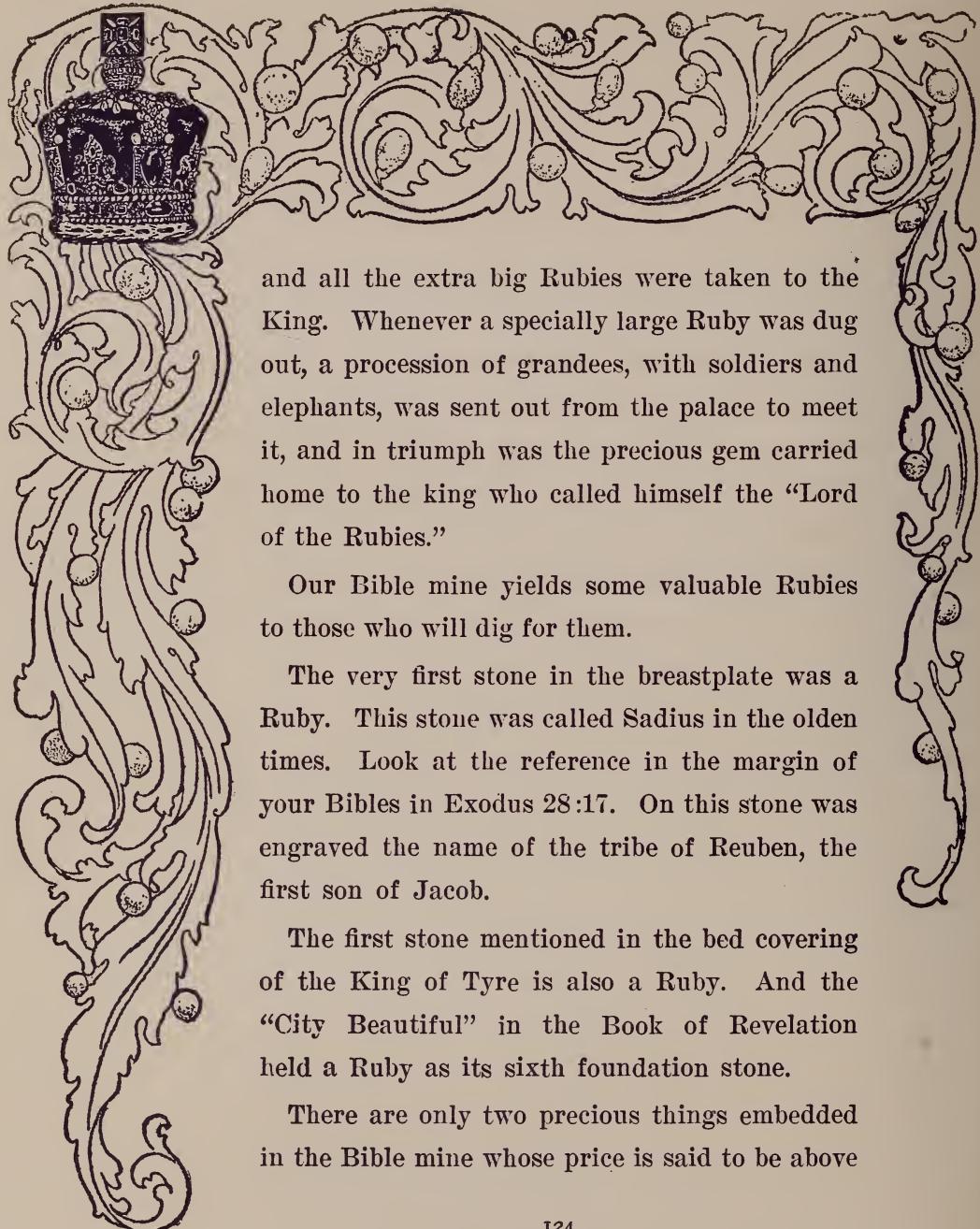
Just so, there is only one true life for every child of God. It is the life hidden with Christ in God.

A perfect Ruby of three carats weight brings twice the price of a diamond the same size, and in the 16th Century it would have been worth eight times as much as a diamond. The largest Ruby ever seen in Europe was presented to the Czarina of Russia in 1777. It is the size of a big pigeon's egg, and weighs one hundred carats.

Another famous Ruby is set in the front of the crown of England, in the center of a Maltese cross. It is called the "Ruby of the Black Prince." The famous writer, John Ruskin, calls it "The loveliest precious stone he ever knew."

The best Oriental Rubies come from Siam, India, and Ceylon, but Siam is the chief home of the "pigeon blood Ruby."

Before the English put machinery into the mines there the labor was done by the natives,



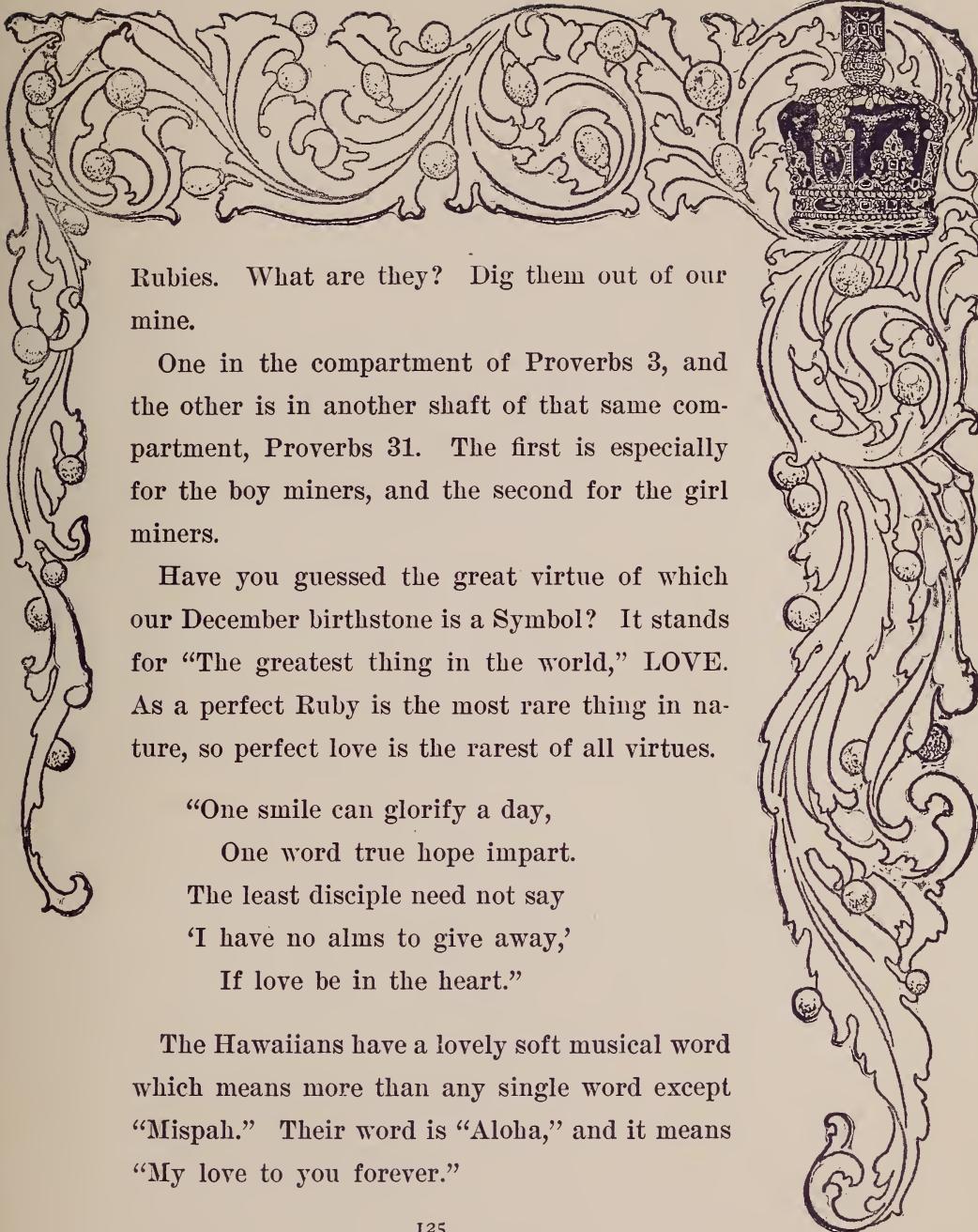
and all the extra big Rubies were taken to the King. Whenever a specially large Ruby was dug out, a procession of grandees, with soldiers and elephants, was sent out from the palace to meet it, and in triumph was the precious gem carried home to the king who called himself the "Lord of the Rubies."

Our Bible mine yields some valuable Rubies to those who will dig for them.

The very first stone in the breastplate was a Ruby. This stone was called Sadius in the olden times. Look at the reference in the margin of your Bibles in Exodus 28:17. On this stone was engraved the name of the tribe of Reuben, the first son of Jacob.

The first stone mentioned in the bed covering of the King of Tyre is also a Ruby. And the "City Beautiful" in the Book of Revelation held a Ruby as its sixth foundation stone.

There are only two precious things embedded in the Bible mine whose price is said to be above



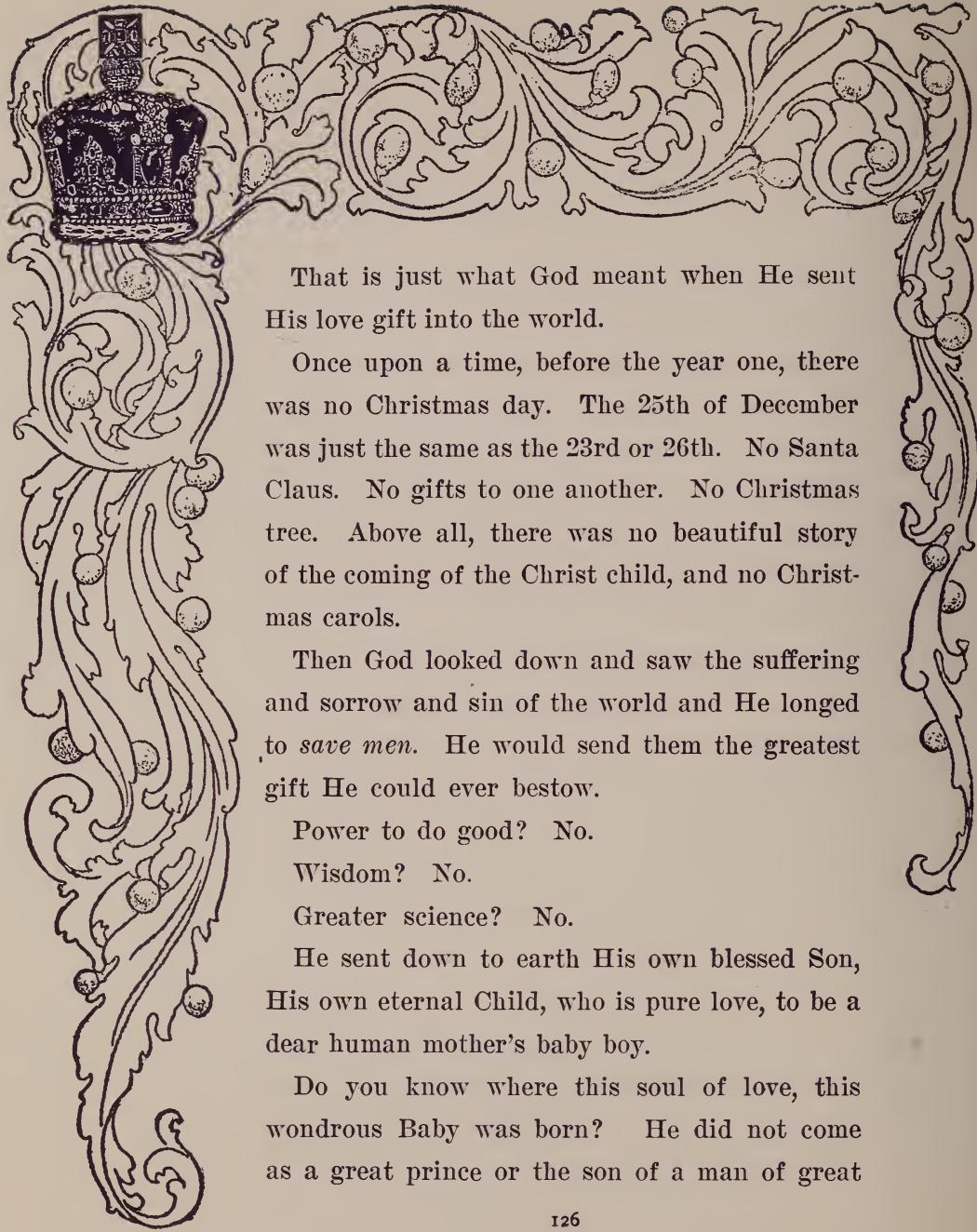
Rubies. What are they? Dig them out of our mine.

One in the compartment of Proverbs 3, and the other is in another shaft of that same compartment, Proverbs 31. The first is especially for the boy miners, and the second for the girl miners.

Have you guessed the great virtue of which our December birthstone is a Symbol? It stands for "The greatest thing in the world," LOVE. As a perfect Ruby is the most rare thing in nature, so perfect love is the rarest of all virtues.

"One smile can glorify a day,
One word true hope impart.
The least disciple need not say
'I have no alms to give away,'
If love be in the heart."

The Hawaiians have a lovely soft musical word which means more than any single word except "Mispah." Their word is "Aloha," and it means "My love to you forever."



That is just what God meant when He sent His love gift into the world.

Once upon a time, before the year one, there was no Christmas day. The 25th of December was just the same as the 23rd or 26th. No Santa Claus. No gifts to one another. No Christmas tree. Above all, there was no beautiful story of the coming of the Christ child, and no Christmas carols.

Then God looked down and saw the suffering and sorrow and sin of the world and He longed to *save men*. He would send them the greatest gift He could ever bestow.

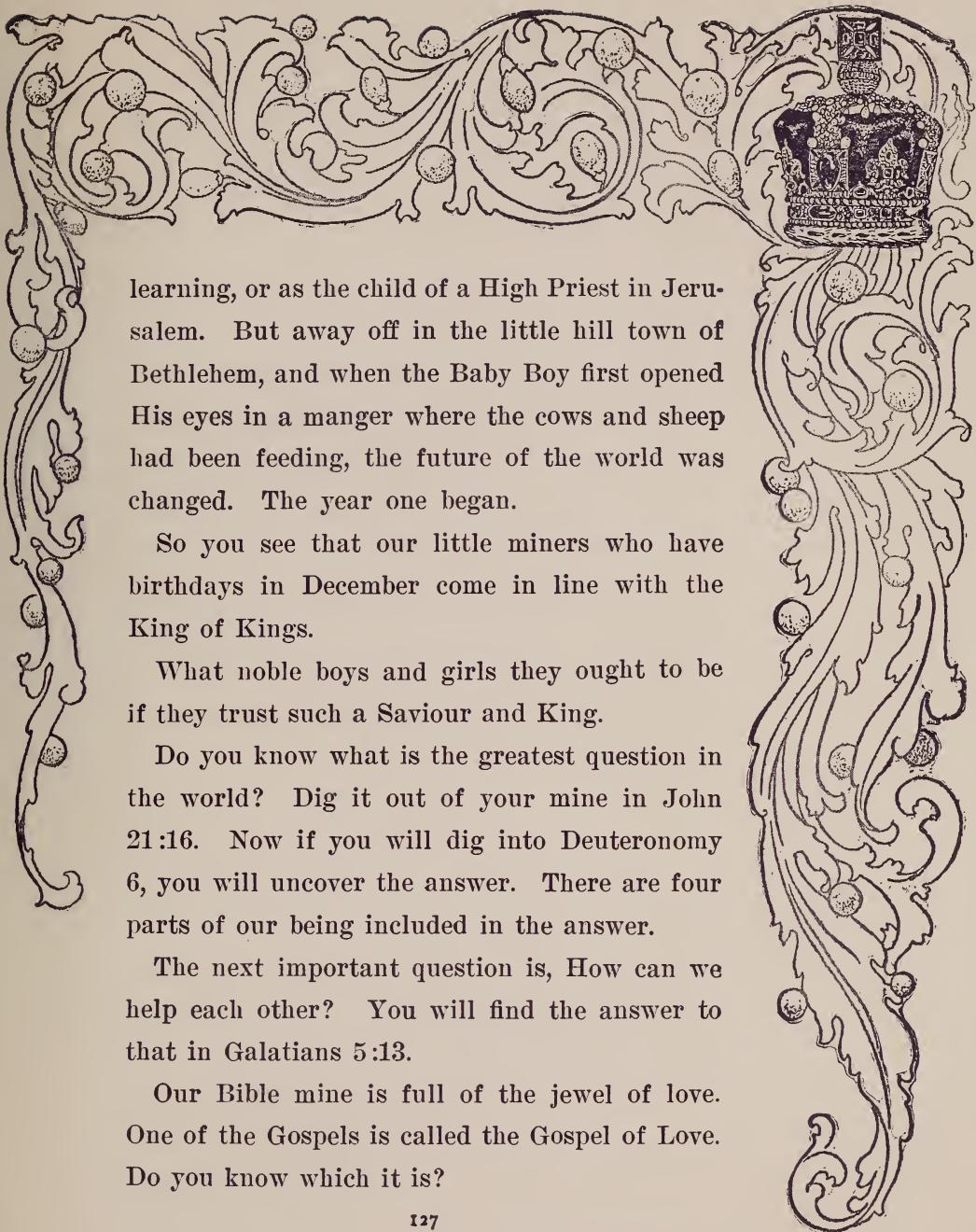
Power to do good? No.

Wisdom? No.

Greater science? No.

He sent down to earth His own blessed Son, His own eternal Child, who is pure love, to be a dear human mother's baby boy.

Do you know where this soul of love, this wondrous Baby was born? He did not come as a great prince or the son of a man of great



learning, or as the child of a High Priest in Jerusalem. But away off in the little hill town of Bethlehem, and when the Baby Boy first opened His eyes in a manger where the cows and sheep had been feeding, the future of the world was changed. The year one began.

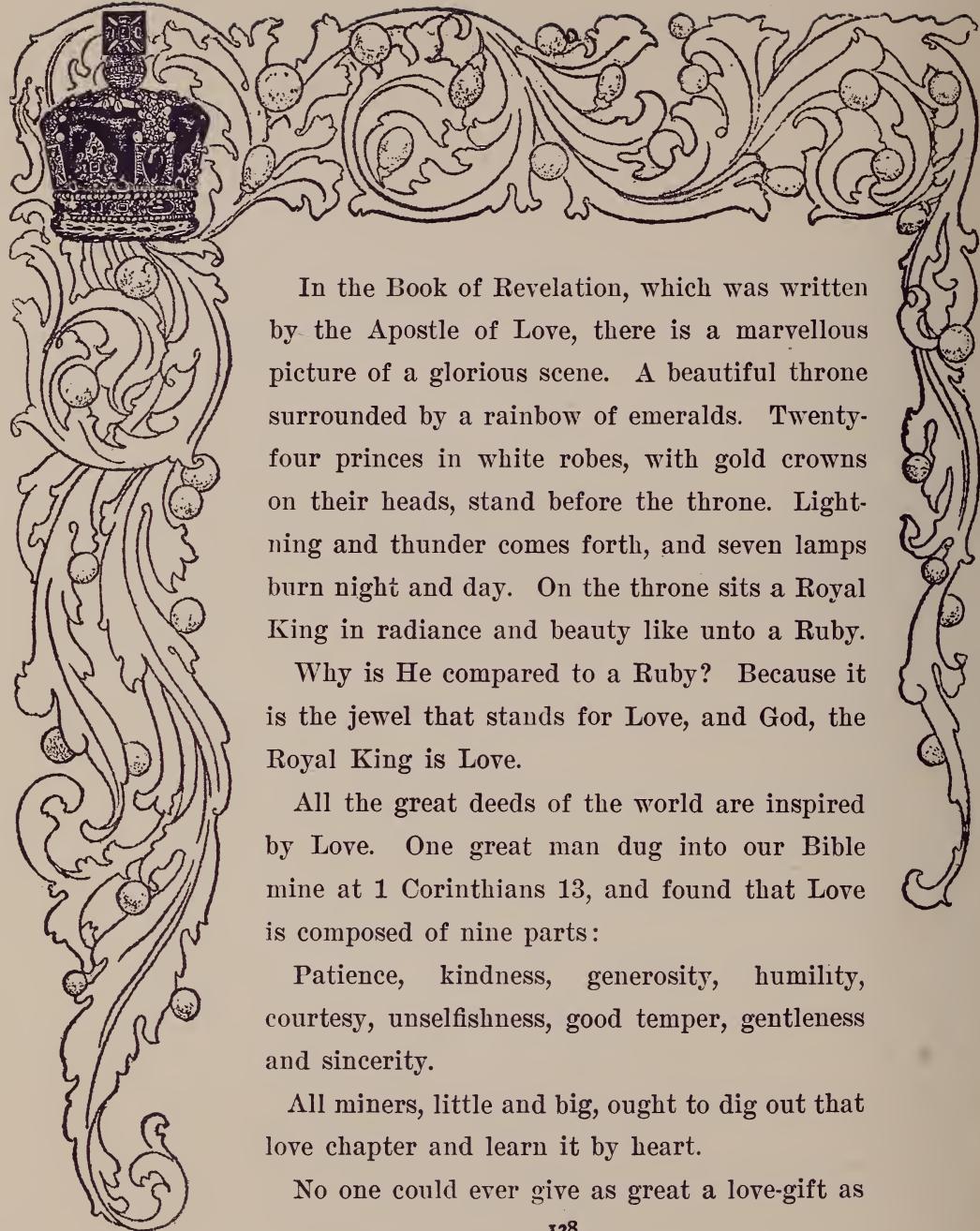
So you see that our little miners who have birthdays in December come in line with the King of Kings.

What noble boys and girls they ought to be if they trust such a Saviour and King.

Do you know what is the greatest question in the world? Dig it out of your mine in John 21:16. Now if you will dig into Deuteronomy 6, you will uncover the answer. There are four parts of our being included in the answer.

The next important question is, How can we help each other? You will find the answer to that in Galatians 5:13.

Our Bible mine is full of the jewel of love. One of the Gospels is called the Gospel of Love. Do you know which it is?



In the Book of Revelation, which was written by the Apostle of Love, there is a marvellous picture of a glorious scene. A beautiful throne surrounded by a rainbow of emeralds. Twenty-four princes in white robes, with gold crowns on their heads, stand before the throne. Lightning and thunder comes forth, and seven lamps burn night and day. On the throne sits a Royal King in radiance and beauty like unto a Ruby.

Why is He compared to a Ruby? Because it is the jewel that stands for Love, and God, the Royal King is Love.

All the great deeds of the world are inspired by Love. One great man dug into our Bible mine at 1 Corinthians 13, and found that Love is composed of nine parts:

Patience, kindness, generosity, humility, courtesy, unselfishness, good temper, gentleness and sincerity.

All miners, little and big, ought to dig out that love chapter and learn it by heart.

No one could ever give as great a love-gift as



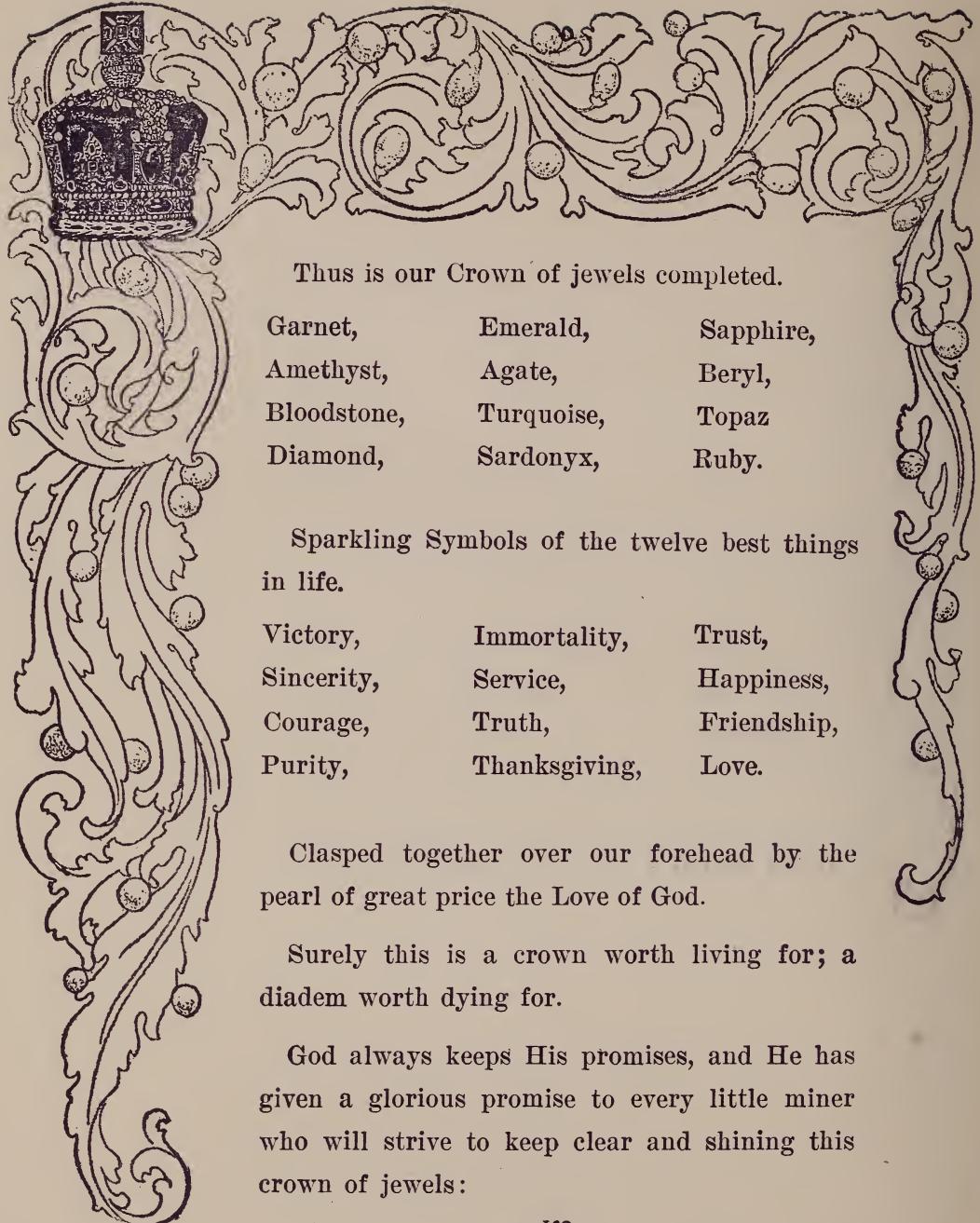
God gave to us on that first Christmas day in the year one. What is the best birthday gift we can give to the Christ Child on His Royal Birthday?

"Great gifts can be given by little hands, since of all gifts *Love* is still the best."

MOTTO FOR DECEMBER:

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."—1 John iv:10.

DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE—THE RUBY.



Thus is our Crown of jewels completed.

| | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Garnet, | Emerald, | Sapphire, |
| Amethyst, | Agate, | Beryl, |
| Bloodstone, | Turquoise, | Topaz |
| Diamond, | Sardonyx, | Ruby. |

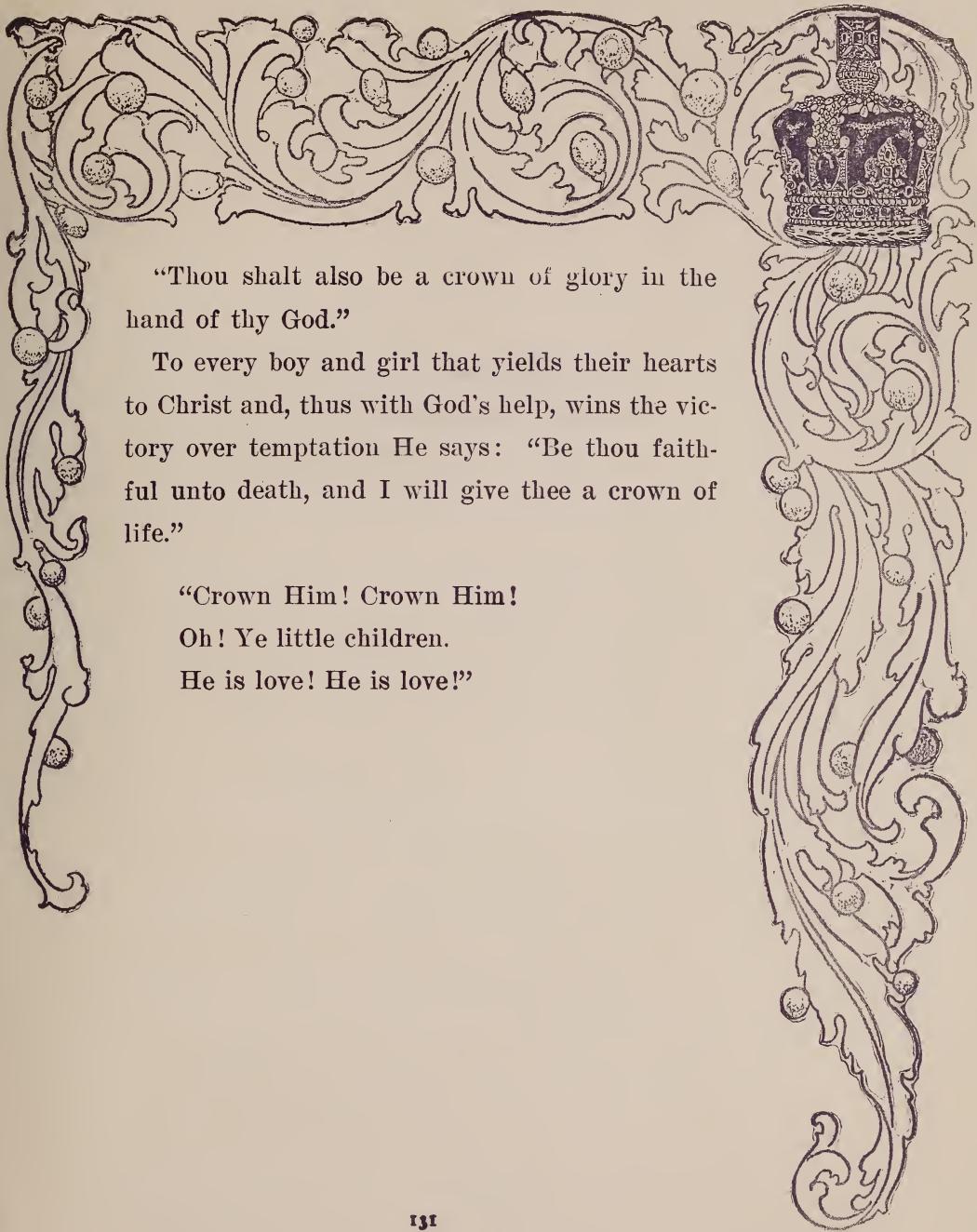
Sparkling Symbols of the twelve best things
in life.

| | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|
| Victory, | Immortality, | Trust, |
| Sincerity, | Service, | Happiness, |
| Courage, | Truth, | Friendship, |
| Purity, | Thanksgiving, | Love. |

Clasped together over our forehead by the
pearl of great price the Love of God.

Surely this is a crown worth living for; a
diadem worth dying for.

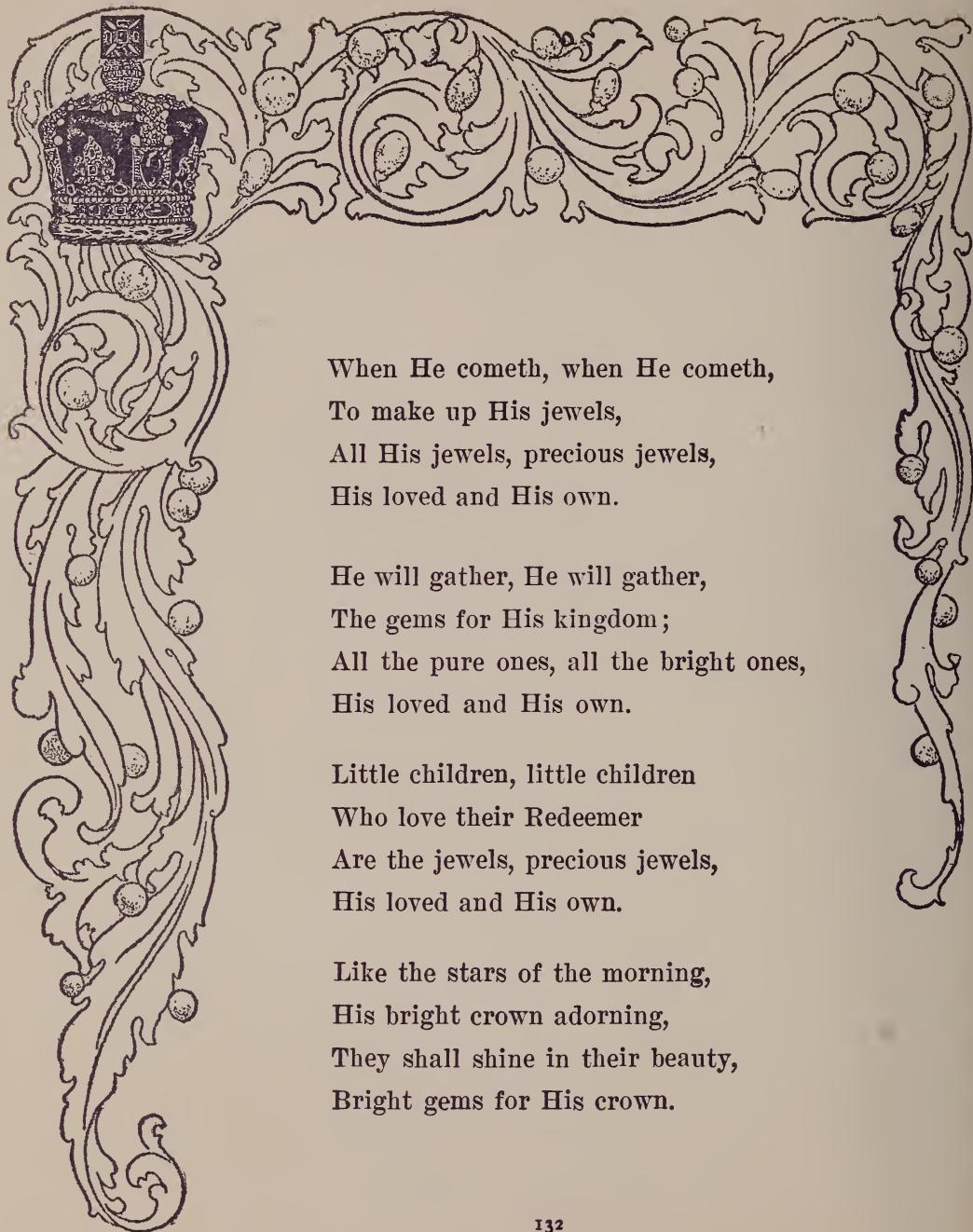
God always keeps His promises, and He has
given a glorious promise to every little miner
who will strive to keep clear and shining this
crown of jewels:



"Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of thy God."

To every boy and girl that yields their hearts to Christ and, thus with God's help, wins the victory over temptation He says: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

"Crown Him! Crown Him!
Oh! Ye little children.
He is love! He is love!"

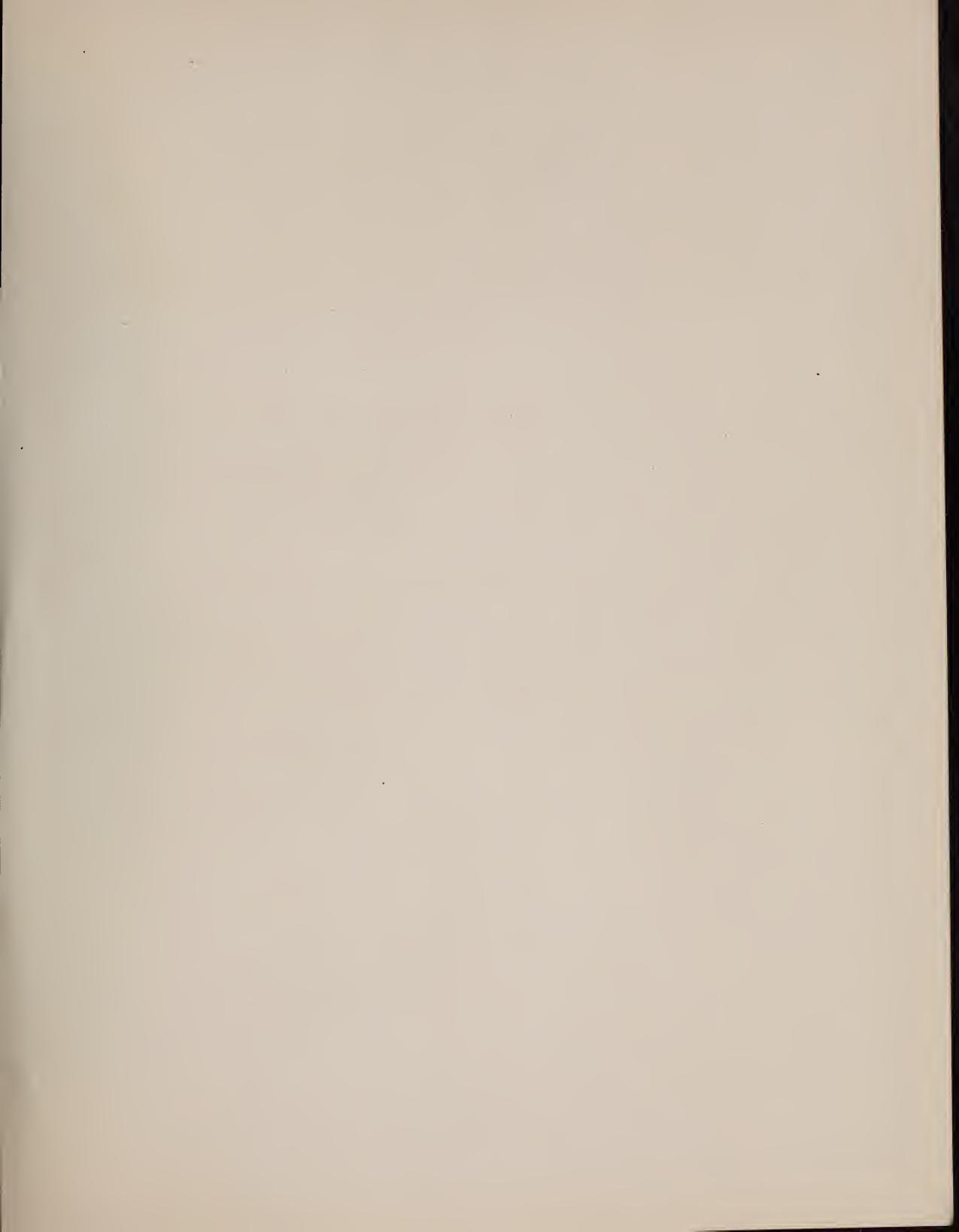


When He cometh, when He cometh,
To make up His jewels,
All His jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own.

He will gather, He will gather,
The gems for His kingdom ;
All the pure ones, all the bright ones,
His loved and His own.

Little children, little children
Who love their Redeemer
Are the jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own.

Like the stars of the morning,
His bright crown adorning,
They shall shine in their beauty,
Bright gems for His crown.



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